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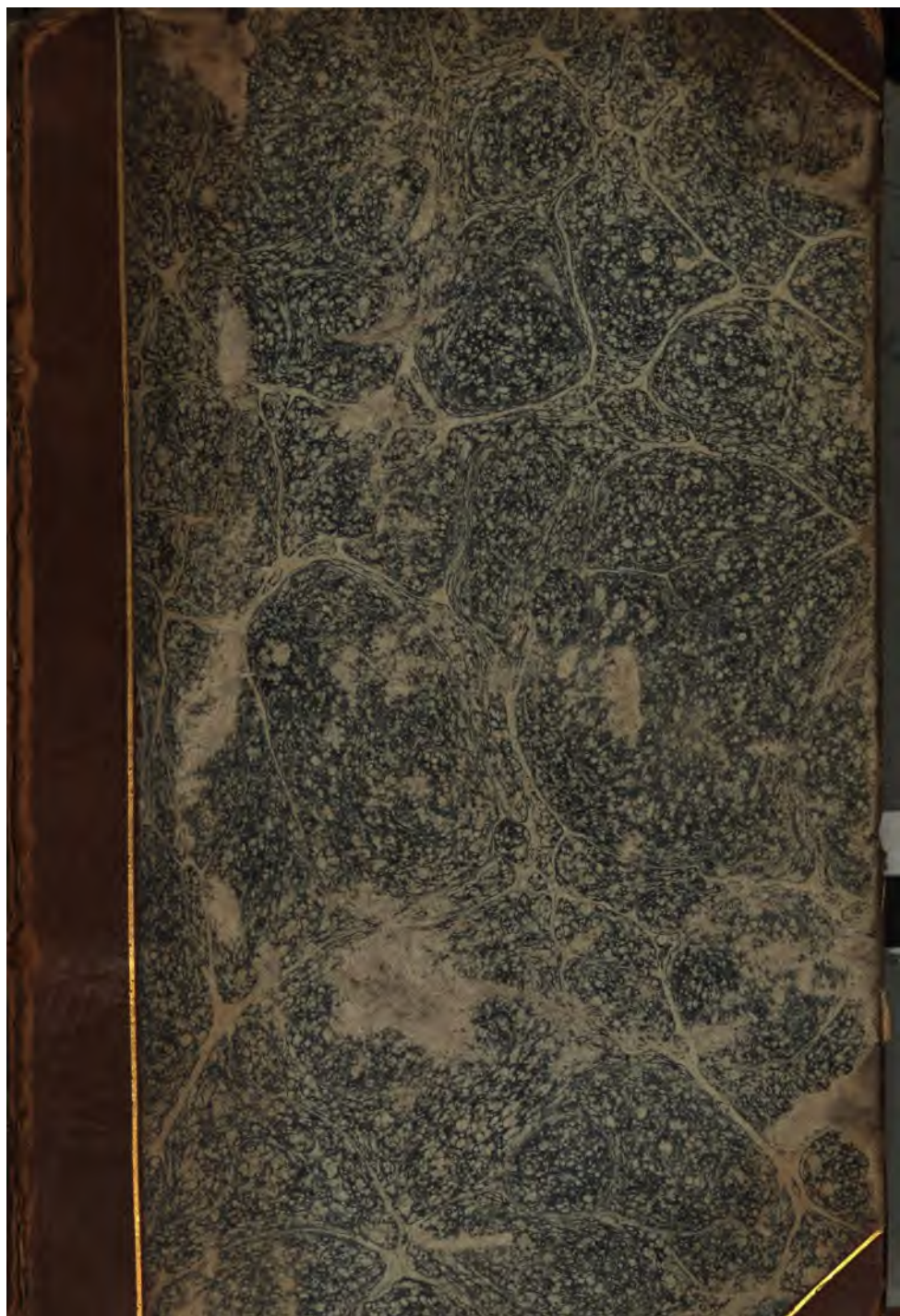
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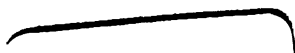








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*W. A. Hillman*

**ANNALS**

**OF**

**GEORGE THE THIRD.**



ANNALS  
OF  
**George the Third,**  
FROM  
*HIS MAJESTY'S ACCESSION*  
TO  
**THE THRONE,**  
TO  
*THE UNPARALLELED VICTORY*  
OF  
**TRAFALGAR,**  
IN 1805.



IN TWO VOLUMES.

By **WILLIAM GREEN, A. M.**

History is Philosophy, teaching by example.

**BOLINGBROKE.**

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**1808.**

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TO

THOMAS WILLIAM COKE, ESQ. M.P.

*Of Holtkham, in the County of Norfolk.*

---

**I**N dedicating to you this brief, but I trust faithful sketch of our national History, I must candidly confess, I am solely guided by a desire of paying my tribute of respect, to those public and private virtues, which so eminently distinguish the Senatorial Representative of the County of Norfolk.

That you may long continue an ornament to society, and a benefactor to your Country, that you may accumulate in your own Person, subjects, no less splendid, nor less instructive for some future, but more competent Historian; is the sincere wish of,

SIR,

your most obliged

and devoted Servant,

**WILLIAM GREEN.**

*LONDON, January, 1808.*

## P R E F A C E.

**IT** is with unfeigned diffidence, that the compiler of these volumes presents them to the notice of an enlightened public; without a wish to detract from the well-earned fame of some of his predecessors, he cannot however be blind to their foibles: antipathy, credulity, and partiality, successively deform the eloquence of even our best modern historians. A scrupulous attention, therefore, to candor and fidelity, forms one, and perhaps the only merit of the following pages. The Author's next object was to give an interesting detail of those glorious events, which have distinguished the present reign, on a scale more concise, less expensive, and he trusts equally as faithful, as the voluminous minuteness of preceding historians; How far he has succeeded, is left to the decision of an impartial, and discerning public.

It would be unpardonable in the compiler of these volumes not to acknowledge his obligations, and the great assistance he has received, especially in his second volume, from Doctor Coote's valuable History of England.



**ANNALS**

OF

**George the Third.**

**BOOK IV.**

**FROM THE FRENCH REVOLUTION TO THE  
COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES.**

**A. D. 1789.** THE event, which now engages our attention, was the most astonishing of modern times: causes, long in the womb of fate, now manifested themselves in the most important consequences. The French revolution, to distant observers, appeared the work of a moment; and reflecting minds could scarce confide in a change, which, in  
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their opinion, appeared so sudden and unexpected: but they were not aware, that the revolution had been generating for a century, and the principles, on which it was founded, were silently and insensibly gaining ground. All the popular writers in France, *Montesquieu*, *Voltaire*, *Rousseau*, and *Mably*, contributed, but in different ways, to diffuse the principles of liberty and reformation. These writings were in every one's hands; and it was scarce possible, but their sentiments should lead to an abhorrence of the arbitrary system, so prevalent in France: her alliance and intercourse with the founders of the American republic, increased an antimonarchial spirit in a country, already predisposed for its reception.

The enormous expence, and fatal consequences in support of the Americans, plunged France into embarrassments; and the aggression recoiled on the aggressor. An immense new debt was added to the old, an augmentation became intolerable. Her taxes, though numerous and burdensome, were inadequate to the national expenditure. The weakness of the sovereign, the incapacity or timidity

timidity of his ministers, the unexampled opposition of parliament to sanction the royal edicts for the impositions of new taxes, the failure of the harvest, and consequent augmentation in the price of bread, were all concurring circumstances to produce, and forward the revolution.

When the late unfortunate king \* came to the throne, the power and influence of the French monarchy, both internal and external, was visibly on the decline; and the impolicy † of the royal measures, accelerated the gathering

\* Louis the XVIth, the reigning monarch, had succeeded his grandfather, Louis the XVth, at the age of 20. He married, while dauphin, Marie Antoinette, sister to the emperor of Germany.

† Louis was persuaded to break up the royal household, to dismiss about 400 officers, holding post immediately about his person, and to content himself with a less expensive and splendid establishment. Perhaps, no advice more fatal could have been conceived or adopted. The pomp and external paraphernalia of majesty being once withdrawn, and the number of nobility attached to the sovereign by interest, vanity, or affection, once disbanded, the throne was left naked, unprotected, and exposed

gathering storm. Louis, instigated by Vergennes and Maurepas, in opposition to his own private opinion, had supported the American revolution, and taken an active part against Great Britain, in defence of that freedom, which it was reasonable to conclude, his own subjects would claim by the example. The infamous dismemberment of Poland too, a power friendly to France, had some share in the revolution, by increasing that odium already prevalent, against the injustice and rapacity of princes.

The queen, Antoinette, dissipated with the most wanton profusion the royal revenue, and by her interference in politics, impaired the popularity of her sovereign : besides, she was disliked, nay odious to a great part of the nation. The tone of monarchy was lowered ;

exposed to insult. Fatal experience has evinced its tendency, and has manifested that a limited monarch only, who reigns in the affections of his subjects, and whose interests are blended with those of the people, can remain an object of respect and homage, divested of the splendor and protector of a royal court, and numerous household.

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and Louis, instead of commanding respect by firmness and ability, sunk by weakness and facility, into greater contempt than his intellects or character deserved. The spirit of irreligion and immorality pervaded the nobles, the gentry, and even many ecclesiastics; and the populace were by no means backward in a vicious imitation of their betters. At this important crisis, M. de Colonne, upon the death of Vergennes, was appointed Minister. One of the most intolerable grievances then prevalent, was the immunity of the nobility and clergy from taxation. The swarms of new noblesse, who had purchased their patents, were by this shameful custom, exempt from contributing to the exigences of the state; and the magistrates enjoyed the same privilege: so that the whole weight of the imposts fell on those least able to bear them. Colonne proposed to equalize the public burdens, and by rendering the taxes general alleviate the load on the lower, and most useful class of the people. The officers under the crown were to be as-

seased, and a territorial impost adopted, similar to the English land tax. This, as a scheme of finance, in whatever motives it originated, was just in its principles, efficient in its object, and as a measure of policy, wise and equitable, since it proposed to restore to the commons, so great a part of their usurped rights. To further this plan, this bold financier assembled the *notables* ;\* but the nobles, clergy, and magistrates, incensed at the intended innovations, united against him, and by their intrigues and clamor, so increased the popular odium, that the king mild and compliant, imbibed the same unfavourable sentiments, and dismissed M. D. Ca-

\* The *notables* were an assembly, deriving their name from the members being men of *note* and respectability. It had been convened by King Henry the IVth, and again by Louis the XIIIth. The assembly consisted of seven princes of the blood, nine dukes and peers of France, eight field marshals, 22 nobles, eight counsellors of state, four masters of requests, 11 archbishops and bishops, 37 judges of parliament, 12 deputies of *Pays d'état*, the Lieutenant civil, and 25 magistrates of different towns : in all, 144 members,

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lonne.\* The succeeding administration of the archbishop of Thoulouse, a leading member of the notables, was not more propitious: on his appointment, his patriotism imperceptibly decreased, and by losing the confidence of the people, he was rendered incapable of serving his sovereign.

Foiled in their attempts to gain the sanction of the notables, the court dissolved that assembly, and had recourse to the usual mode of raising money, by royal edicts. On the 12th of June, an edict, containing a double poll tax, and a heavy stamp duty, was sent to parliament to enregister; but, in an animated remonstrance, they reprobated all new imposts, and recommended the king to assemble the *states general* of the kingdom, which the despotism of Henry the IVth, had induced them to discontinue: but Louis rejecting their advice, adopted the impolitic council

\* Calonne, dreading a judicial prosecution, while the tide of popular prejudice run so strong against him, retired to England. His scheme, if adopted, and fairly executed, would have been of service to the state, and of relief to the people.



of the prelate, and by holding what they termed a *bed of justice*, enforced the registration of the edicts. On the following day, parliament formally protested against this compulsive concession, and declared, that as the edicts had been registered against their consent, they neither ought, or should be valid, and that the first person who attempted to enforce them, should be adjudged a traitor, and condemned to the gallies. This peremptory declaration left the crown no alternative, but of proceeding to extremities, in support of its authority, or for ever abandoning the power of raising money without the sanction of parliament. Painful as was the alternative, Louis could not consent to resign without a struggle, an authority which had been so long exercised by his predecessors: he therefore, banished to Troyes\* in Campagne,

\* Since the commencement of the prevalent discontent, the capital had been gradually filled with troops; and not more than a week after parliament had entered their protest, an officer of the guards with a party of soldiers, went at day break, to the house of every protesting

pagne, all the protesting members: a measure fatal to his own essential interest, and even eventual existence.

These, and other arbitrary proceedings, increased the popular ferment. Commotions commenced in several parts of the kingdom; and a general convulsion was apprehended. The archbishop, unequal to combat the gathering storm, retired from the helm, for which he was ill qualified, and abandoned his sovereign to the mercy of events: but prior to his resignation, he recommended him to convoke the states general. The archbishop was succeeded by Necker, who had conducted the finances during the late war, and had gained an unmerited degree of popularity, since his dismissal from office. Adopting

testing member of parliament, to signify the king's command, that he should immediately proceed to Troyes, (about 70 miles from Paris) without either writing or speaking to any person out of his own house before his departure. These peremptory mandates were executed at the same instant; and before the transaction was known to the citizens of Paris, the protesting members were on the road to the scene of their banishment. After a month's exile, they were, however, recalled.

therefore

therefore the advice of the prelate, he gave orders for summoning the states general.\* After a cessation of 175 years, this assembly met on the 1st of May: and their re-establishment presented a new æra in the government of France. The most powerful parties in the kingdom constituted this national council, and arranged themselves into three divisions. The first consisted of the aristocratic party, determined to support the ancient mode of procedure, by a separation of the states into three chambers. This division was formidable from the rank, talents, and situation of its members. The second was of the moderate party, unfavourable to assemblies of three separate orders, and disposed to

\* The most important consideration of the king and ministers, was the means of re-assembling the states general. The last meeting in 1614 had been convened by application to the bailiwicks; but these were increased in number and jurisdiction, and with the addition of several provinces to France. It was, however, determined to fix the number of deputies at one thousand and upwards, and that the deputies of the third division or commons, should equal in number those of the nobility and clergy united.

form

form the nobles and clergy into one house, upon a principle of reciprocal controul, similar to the British constitution. The third division consisted of the great democratic party, zealous to overbear all ranks, and all distinction. The states being assembled, his majesty, in a speech from the throne, informed them of his reasons for convoking them. He noticed the spirit of innovation, and the prevalent discontent. He trusted, their first and principal object would be directed to remove those evils, and by their proceedings, manifest that loyalty and attachment to monarchy, from which France derived such great and glorious advantages.\* Necker then addressed the convention; but his harangue was inadequate to the important office he filled, and unsatisfactory to all. In short,

\* Necker, a republican in birth and principle, greatly deficient in the essential qualities of a great minister, and of those enlarged principles of taxation and revenue competent to relieve the embarrassment of so vast a monarchy as France, endeavoured to supply these defects, by little arts, and narrow projects adapted to the exigences of the day.

weakness and irresolution marked the ministerial councils.

The king still possessed the supreme authority of the kingdom; and though the states were assembled, they were destitute of all legal power, as the writs of election had never been examined.\* Notwithstanding this royal privilege, the ministers shamefully neglected to enforce the enquiry, and imprudently suffered the states to become a democratical assembly. The verification of their powers afforded a favourable opportunity to the commons of insisting, that they should meet in one chamber.

Disunion and indecision marked the nobles and clergy of the states general; but the commons were united. Necker proposed conciliatory measures, but, from their indeci-

\* Each member, prior to the commencement of public business, was obliged to present his writ of election on the table of the chamber to which it belonged, for the inspection of the commissaries appointed to examine their authority. The sanction of the commissioners to the authenticity of the writs, sanctioned the verification of power.

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siveness, they satisfied neither party. The commons finding the nobles inflexible, boldly formed themselves into a national assembly, and proceeded to business. The clergy seeing the commons triumphant, flocked to their hall, and were joyfully received. The national assembly made rapid strides in the assumption of power: they asserted the sovereign authority, and exercised it by a very popular act, declaring all existing taxes illegal. Louis alarmed at these arbitrary proceedings, grew daily more dissatisfied with his ministers, whose irresolution and inaction had not a little increased the popular ferment. The princes and nobles, adherents to the old government, recommended vigorous measures; they advised the king to hold a royal session in the hall of the states general, which would suspend the meetings of the national assembly. He accordingly issued a proclamation, and appointed next day for the royal session. Orders were therefore given the guards, to keep the apartment clear till the arrival of his majesty; the commons, in consequence, were refused admittance.—

Alarmed



Alarmed at this unexpected measure, and fearful of immediate dissolution, they retired to an old tennis-court, where, by oath, they bound themselves to remain, till they had completed the constitution.

On opening the royal session, his majesty proposed the outline\* of a new constitution: he then ordered the assembly to disperse, and to meet the next day in their respective halls: The commons listened in haughty silence to the reading of the plan, and, on the king's departure, refused to dissolve their meeting. On being reminded by the Marquis De Breac, master of the ceremonies, of the royal mandate, the president of the states replied, *The nation assembled, had no orders to receive:* and Mirabeau, a member distinguished for his talents and eloquence, added, *Go tell your master, that we are here by the power of the*

\* The propositions were equitable and moderate, and such as a few years back, the most sagacious politicians could not have conceived that the king of France would offer to his subjects; but the ministerial mandate, that accompanied them, was impolitic and unwise.

*people, and that nothing shall expel us, but the bayonet.*

The populace at Versailles, the scene of action, now became violent in favour of the commons: and at Paris the ferment was outrageous. The convulsed state of the metropolis, and the unfitness of the guards, under no subordination or military discipline for re-establishing tranquillity, justified the rendezvous of the military, in the vicinity of Paris and Versailles. The national assembly remonstrated against the approach of such a large armed force; but the king answered, that he had no other motive, than the necessity of establishing, and maintaining good order in the capital.

The royal party reprobated the conduct of Necker, and to his republican principles attributed the degraded state of royalty: he was in consequence dismissed, and ordered to quit the kingdom, and with him, his friend Montmorin. This step, which evinced a total revolution of measures, and, from the popularity of the minister, increased the general ferment, was followed by others equally impolitic.

impolitic.\* An ill-timed delay, as fatal as the precipitate retreat of Necker, gave the inhabitants time to recover their first emotions of surprize and apprehension, and they profited by their in exertions. Rapidly passing from one extreme to another, the Parisians unanimously took up arms, and joined by the French guards, who, from a long residence in the capital, had been peculiarly exposed to seductions, and had abandoned their sovereign at the awful moment, now threw off all restraint. The supplies of arms and ammunition, which had been provided for their subjugation, were turned against the crown; and the *Hotel des Invalids*, the great

\* The garden of the duke of Orleans, a violent revolutionary partizan, was the chief scene of disorder, and constant resort of the mob, to hear the seditious harangues of mercenary orators, purposely hired, to inflame the populace to acts of the most violent atrocity. Unfortunately, weakness and irresolution marked the ministerial councils; they impotently expected, without adverting to the change of sentiment and circumstances, that the very appearance of the military, as in former times, would awe the Parisians to submission and obedience.

repository—

repository of military stores, after a faint resistance, surrendered.

The Bastile, that awful engine of despotism for ages, sacred to silence and despair, still continued unmolested; and while it remained, Paris could not be regarded as free, or secure from chastisement: it was therefore invested by a mixed multitude of citizens and soldiers, and in a few hours, carried by storm. The governor De Launy\*,

\* De Launy, it is said, displayed a flag of truce, and a parley; but abusing the confidence which these signals inspired, he discharged a heavy fire of cannon and musquetry, and made considerable carnage. But whether this act, unjustifiable under any circumstances, originated from a preconcerted scheme of the governors, or, with greater probability, provoked at the abusive and insulting conduct of the citizens, has never been ascertained. The testimonies are so extremely contradictory, that it is impossible to develope truth, amidst the exaggeration of distempered passions. What advantage could accrue from this partial massacre? Far from intimidating, he only augmented, by so treacherous a breach of faith, the rage of an incensed populace. If imputed to a part of the royal policy, as was the popular opinion, not one authenticated instance could be found, to corroborate such premeditated cruelty.

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and De Losme, the major, were dragged to the *Place de Grève*, and inhumanly butchered; the garrison, too, but for the intercession of the national troops, would have shared the same untimely fate. Popular fury now manifested a species of savageness long happily exploded in civilized Europe: they insulted the mangled remains of the victims they had inhumanly murdered, and exhibited their heads on pikes to the applauding multitude. Thus dreadful was the commencement of Gallic liberty!!! An awful example of the danger to which adherence to their sovereign must expose, in time of anarchy and insurrection.

On the arrival of this alarming intelligence at Versailles, consternation and dismay pervaded the court. The king finding resistance unavailing, especially as the military were infected with the popular spirit, resolved on the most unconditional submission to the national assembly; repairing thither early the next morning, disordered in his dress and unattended with his guards, he resigned himself into their hands: thus fell the absolute monarchy

monarchy of France. Monsieur Necker and Monmorin were recalled, and reinstated in their offices. The count d'Artois and his two sons, the duke d'Angoulême and de Barri, the prince de Conde, his son and grandson, the dukes of Bourbon and Enghien, \* the prince of Conte, marechal de Broglio, with other associates and favourites, perceiving the popular party paramount, sought safety by flight, and left the kingdom.

Our brief epitome will not allow a minute detail of the triumphant proceedings of the national assembly, or of the factious and barbarous outrages, frequently and too fatally prevalent over order and humanity. Suffice it to remark, that many decrees for the regulation of the royal authority, for the suppression of the nobility, and of unjust and unnecessary privileges, for the equalisation of imposts, and other important acts were promulgated; and while the deputies were

\* This was the unfortunate nobleman, who, in 1804, was inhumanly sacrificed to glut the revenge of the despotic Corsican usurper.

thus employed, the cause was disgraced by the excesses of plebian brutality, and outrages of unexampled barbarity.\* The leaders, particularly

\* The following is a copy of the declaration of rights, consisting of seventeen articles.

I. Men were born, and always continue equal in respect to their rights; civil distinctions, therefore, can be founded on public utility.

II. The end of all political associations is the preservation of the natural and imprescriptible rights of man; and these rights are liberty, property, security and resistance.

III. The nation is essentially the source of all sovereignty, nor can any individual, or any body of men, be entitled to any authority, which is expressly derived from it.

IV. Political liberty consists in the power of doing whatever does not injure another: the exercise of the natural rights of every man has no other limits, than those which are necessary to secure every other man the free exercise of the same rights, and these limits are determinable only by law.

V. The law ought to prohibit only actions hurtful to society: what is not prohibited by the law, should not be hindered, nor should any one be compelled to that, which the law does not require.

VI. The law is an expression of the will of the community:

particularly Orléans and Mirabeau, instead of repressing the turbulent spirit, deliberately encouraged,

munity: all citizens have a right to concur, either personally, or by their representative in its formation. It should be the same to all, whether it protects or punishes: and all being equal in its sight, are equally eligible to all honours, places and employments according to their different abilities, without any other distinction, than that created by their virtues and talents.

VII. No man shall be accused, arrested, or held in confinement, except in cases determined by law, and according to the forms which it has prescribed. All who promote, solicit, execute, or cause to be executed, arbitrary orders, ought to be punished, and every citizen called upon, or apprehended by virtue of the law, ought immediately to obey, or he renders himself culpable by resistance.

VIII. The law ought to impose no other penalties, than such as are absolutely and evidently necessary; and no one ought to be punished, but in virtue of a law promulgated before the offence.

IX. Every man being presumed innocent, till he has been convicted, when his detention becomes indispensable, all rigour to him, more than is necessary to secure his person, ought to be provided against by law.

X. No man ought to be molested on account of his opinions, not even on account of his religious opinions, provided



encouraged, nay even vindicated the riotous disposition of the rabble. Many literary men were

provided his avowal of them does not disturb the public order established by law.

XI. The unrestrained communication of thoughts and opinions, being one of the most precious rights of man, every citizen may speak, write, or publish freely, provided he is responsible for the use of his liberty in cases determined by law.

XII. A public force being necessary to give security to the rights of men and of citizens, that force is instituted for the benefit of the community, and not for the particular benefit of the persons to whom it is intrusted.

XIII. A common contribution being necessary for the support of the public force, and for defraying the other expences of government, it ought to be divided equally among the members of the community according to their abilities.

XIV. Every citizen has a right, either by himself or his representatives, to be a free voice in determining the necessity of public contributions, the approbation of them, and of their amount, their modes of assessments and duration.

XV. Every community has a right to demand of all its agents an account of their conduct.

XV. Every community in which a separation of powers and a security of rights, if not provided for, wants a constitution.

XVII. The

were employed, not as became intellectual superiority, in suppressing vicious passions, or exhorting the ignorant to virtue and happiness, but in stimulating them to outrage and violence.

Their lessons of instructions or exhortations to practice, may be comprised in a few words: they viewed religion as folly, and its ministers as bugbears; all establishment, they maintained, was contrary to natural rights; order, an encroachment upon natural freedom, and property an infringement upon natural equality. Such were the outlines of the revolutionary Gallic system! Such the precepts and principles of the national assembly! To follow through the various and manifold details, the doctrines and objects of the Na-

XVII. The right to property being inviolable, and sacred, no one ought to be deprived of it, except in cases of evident public necessity, legally ascertained, and on the condition of a previous and just indemnity.

A combination of literary men about this time formed themselves into a club, and meeting in a convent belonging to the jacobins, assumed the name of the jacobin club, gained a superiority over the rest, and became noted throughout Europe.

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tional Assembly, would be foreign to our plan. Suffice it to notice, that equality being the professed objects of the revolutionists, they consolidated the whole nation into one compact body. Parliaments were annihilated, all the canon, ecclesiastical, and political code of law was abolished; even theology, and metaphysics, so prevalent for ages, yielded to the furious rage of innovation. In short the whole law and policy of the nation was metamorphosed, a considerable part of its property disarrayed, and every thing assumed a novel appearance.

About this time it was supposed, and generally credited, that the king intended to escape to Mentez in Loraine, and there erect the royal standard, in hostility to the national assembly. Incensed at this alarming apprehension, the infatuated mob, headed by Mail-lard, a creature of the Orléan party, proceeded to Versailles: meeting two travellers habited as gentlemen, they concluded them aristocrats, and hanged them without further ceremony: on their arrival at Versailles, Mail-lard waited on the National Assembly, and demanded

demanded immediate punishment of the aristocrats, and of the life guards; the mob surrounded the palace, denounced vengeance against the queen, and filled the court with consternation.\* About five in the morning, an immense crowd endeavoured to force the palace gates, and after murdering all who opposed them, effected their purpose: dreadful imprecations announced their entrance into the palace; before six they had gained the queen's apartments, but her majesty, undressed and almost naked, escaped by a pri-

\* The queen, the day before, had received an uncommon share of company: to some of her attendants, who expressed their uneasiness, she replied, "I know they are come to demand my head, but I learned of my mother not to fear death, and I will wait for it with firmness." Her answer to the advice of her friends to fly from the impending danger, was truly heroic. "No," replied the queen, "I will never desert the king and my children, I will share whatever fate awaits them." It is impossible, how much soever we may condemn certain parts of her character, not to admire the heroism and magnanimity of her deportment, in which we seem to recognize the blood of so many emperors, from whence she was descended.

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vate stair case, which conveyed her to the king. The materials of the bed from which she had risen, after undergoing the strictest search, in hopes of discovering the object of their pursuit, were scattered over the room, as some gratification to their disappointed vengeance.

They then attempted to force the anti-chamber, heroically defended by a body of loyal guards, momentarily decreasing by the murdering hands of these infuriate savages. They had almost succeeded, when la Fayette arrived with the national guards, and prevented the execution of their diabolical intentions: in the interim, the mobility in the outer court demanded the appearance of the king and queen; on presenting themselves on the balcony, the general cry was *to Paris, to Paris*; remonstrance or refusal would have been instant death. Within the hour, the cavalcade was on the move towards the capital; while the bleeding heads of the murdered guards, born on pikes, and held up to the view of their majesties, presented a melancholy prospect of their own probable destiny.

tiny. The annals of history cannot produce a day more ignominious to royalty; more humiliating, than any historical record of captive princes, led as spectacles to grace the pageantry of insulting enemies. How degrading to royalty to be thus dragged from their palace! How mortifying to be led in triumph by the very dregs of the metropolis, and every moment in peril of their lives from the insatiate fury of a licentious and abandoned populace. From this period we may date the king a prisoner in Paris.

The national assembly followed their sovereign to Paris—the republican party, every where triumphant, began now to express their suspicions of the duke of Orleans,\* and, through the medium of la Fayette, intimated

\* Louis Philip, duke of Orleans, was the descendant and representative of the only brother of Louis XIV; and, after the posterity of that monarch, presumptive heir to the crown of France. In such an elevated rank, with wealth superior to every other European subject, he had spent the early part of his life in the most profligate debauchery: though extremely opulent, the duke was boundless in avarice.

that his presence in France was incompatible with the public weal; he accordingly retired to England. About this time the Parisian mobility attempted to assume the administration of justice, and hanged several aristocrats, especially bankers, at the lamp post. The national assembly alarmed for their own personal safety, resolved to suppress such summary proceedings; they accordingly passed a decree obliging the municipal magistrates to proclaim martial law, when ever the mob proceeded to outrage: in consequence several of the ring leaders were hanged, and some degree of tranquillity established in the metropolis: such were the principles and leading features of the French revolution! Britons, sympathizing with the assertors of liberty, applauded the overthrow of the old Gallic constitution, as incompatible with the freedom they happily enjoyed, before they had time to ascertain its effects on its new votaries. The professions of men of genius and patriotism, in favour of the revolution, appear to have originated from the triumph of liberty over despotism, without paying attention

tion to its peculiar nature and principles. In their ardent wish for the general extention of liberty, so fertile with blessings to our happy isle, they overlooked the diversities of national characters, in different countries.

The British parliament had continued to sit so late the preceding year, that it did not re-assemble till the 21st of January. The royal speech slightly, and ambiguously glanced at the affairs of France. His majesty remarked "that the continuance of the war on the Continent, and the internal situation of the different parts of Europe had been productive of events, which engaged his most serious attention; but while he lamented the interruption of tranquillity in other countries, he had great satisfaction in stating, that he received continued assurances of the good disposition of all foreign powers towards these kingdoms." In moving the address, lord Valletort contrasted the tranquil and prosperous situation of England, with the anarchy and licentiousness of France, he stigmatised the revolution as disastrous, and big with fatal consequences.

Mr.



Mr. Fox on the other side, admired and supported the revolution; he estimated its value by the happiness, which, he conceived, it would produce to millions: he spoke with rapture of a powerful people, breaking their chains on the heads of their oppressors, and and extolled the subversion of despotism, as foreboding tranquillity to Britain: he applauded the conduct of the French military, during the commotions, in refusing obedience \* to their sovereign; the Gallic soldiers, continues this statesman, had set a glorious example to all the military corps in Europe; they have evinced that men by becoming soldiers, did not cease to be citizens: he compared the revolution in France to the glorious event, commonly called the revolution in

\* Had our soldiers, in violation of their oaths and allegiance, acted the unprincipled part of the French guards, during the riots of 1780, how fatal would have been the consequences! But our military, feeling as British citizens, and, British soldiers, patiently indured the insults of the deluded populace, manfully supported the laws of their country, and by their vigorous exertions, quelled the disturbances.

England.

England. Mr. Burke in answer, reprobated the political doctrines of Mr. Fox; much as he detested the Gallic outrages, he condemned their principles more, as pregnant with fatal enormities. What they valued themselves upon, was in his opinion, their disgrace. They had gloried, and some Englishmen had thought fit to take share in that glory, in accomplishing a revolution: all the horrors, all the crimes, which led to this event, which attend its progress, and may eventually result from its establishment, pass for nothing. The French, at the ruin of their country, have established a bad constitution, when they were absolutely in possession of a good one: instead of redressing grievances, and improving the state, they, by their fatal principles, have melted down into one incongruous ill connected mass, the ballance of all power, the usurpation of all property, consequently of all national prosperity, and the general confiscation of all ecclesiastical possessions. They have adopted a sort of institute and digest of anarchy, called *the declaration of the rights of men*,  
subversive

subversive of every hold of authority by opinion, religious and civil, on the minds of the public. By this mad innovation, they had destroyed all social order, and brought calamities, no country without a long and expensive war had ever experienced: the able senator declared, he felt some conceit that this Gallic convulsion should be compared with the revolution in Britain. The circumstances of that glorious event, compared with that of France, are diametrically opposite in the whole spirit of the transition. Our exertions prevented, rather than produced a revolution: we took solid securities, we settled doubtful questions, corrected anomalies in our law: in the fundamental parts of our constitution, we made no revolution, no alteration at all,—we did not curtail the monarchy; Britain kept the same ranks, the same subordination, the same franchises, the same order in law, the same revenue, the same lords, the same common the same corporations, and the same electors. The church was not impaired, her majesty her splendor, her orders and gradations continued

tinued the same. She was preserved in her full efficiency, and cleared only of that intolerance, which was her weakness and disgrace. Was little done then, because no revolution took place in the constitution? No; every thing was done, because we commenced with reparation, not with ruin.— Britain rose above the standard of her former self: all the energies of the country were awakened, and a new æra of prosperity commenced, which continues, not only unimpaired, but happily improving under the wasting hand of time.\* Mr. Pitt pursuing a cautious and politic silence, as to the merits of the revolution, confined his applauses to that part of Mr. Burke's speech,

\* From this day a schism took place in the politics of the opposition. Mr. Burke in his speech observed, that he had differed on many occasions with Mr. Fox, but that there had been no loss of friendship between them, but there was something in the accursed French Constitution, that envenomed every thing. Mr. Fox on hearing this, interrupted him saying "there was no loss of friendship;" but Mr. Burke replied "there was; he knew the price of his conduct, he had done his duty, and their friendship was at an end."

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which

which displayed the principles of the British constitution.

The dissenters, encouraged by the trifling majority, which had negatived Mr. Beaufoy's motion the last session, now strenuously exerted themselves to increase their interest in the commons: they convened provincial meetings in almost every part of the kingdom, they passed resolutions, frequently violent ones, and reprobating the injustice and oppression under which they suffered. They had even the audacity, in contemplation of the approaching general election, openly to recommend, at many of the public meetings, a marked preference to those candidates, who were favourable, or promised to support the repeal. Instead of Mr. Beaufoy, a friend of the ministers, they solicited Mr. Fox to introduce for the third time, their motion for a repeal of the Test Acts. He supported their cause with a wonderful deal of ability; men, in the language of this able senator, must not be judged by their opinions, but by their actions. Speculative notions ought to be no hinderance to a man  
from

from exercising an office, the performance of whose duties depends on practical abilities and habits. Preservation is the bond of union; remove the barriers, which separate the dissenters from the community of citizens, and in their collective capacity, they would be no longer known—men unite to resist oppression, but cease to oppress them, and the union is dissolved. For any government to extend its jurisdiction over the opinions of individuals, is both absurd and tyrannical: it is not to controul opinion, but actions, that government was instituted; and then only has the state a right to interfere, when by any overact, a man has offended against any known law. Then, and then only, is punishment justly inflicted, when a man by his conduct has proved himself criminal, and not when inferred, and perhaps not justly from his opinions, that he may possibly become so.

Mr. Pitt, on the other side, contended, that neither the merits or demerits of individuals, ought to have any influence on the discussion of the present question. It was

foreign from his intention to throw any stigma on the dissenters, but he affirmed, that it was extremely probable, that they might exercise the power they demanded, for the subversion of the present establishment. Mr. Fox proposed to judge men, not by their opinions, but by their actions: this was certainly the ground for procedure in judicial cases, but in deliberative ones, the policy of prevention was not only wise, but necessary; opinions produced actions, therefore provident lawyers and statesmen must often investigate opinions, in order to infer probable conduct. Many leading dissenters, inimical to the principles of the church, had evinced intentions immediately hostile; against such avowed designs, it became every well wisher of the church firmly to guard: admissibility into the offices of trust, would obviously increase the powers of the dissenters. The assertions, therefore, of their advocates, that their theological opinions had no influence on their political conduct, were effectually confuted by their own declarations: for, at one of their general meetings,

meetings, they had subscribed to resolutions, recommending voters to support at the approaching general election only such candidates as favoured the repeal; thus, while they themselves reprobated a political test, established by the constitutional authority of the kingdom, they wished to enforce a political test, by their sole authority. To toleration, the dissenters were undoubtedly entitled; they had a right to enjoy their liberty, and their property, to entertain their own speculative opinions, and to educate their children in such religious sentiments, as they themselves approved. But the indispensable necessity of a permanent church establishment; for the welfare of the state, required, that toleration should not be extended to equality; if it were, there would be an end to the wise policy of prevention, and a door opened to the ruin of the constitution.

Mr. Burke seconded the minister in a speech, more violent and acrimonious. He was of opinion, that the dissenters desired, and expected the abolition of tythes, of the liturgy, and a total subversion of the church.



He astonished and alarmed the house with extracts, from the writings of several dissenting divines, on the subject of ecclesiastical establishments; from their testimonies he inferred the inveterate enmity of the dissenters to the church: he abjured the house to suffer the late fatal incidents, which have taken place in France, and the total ruin of the Gallic church, to awake their zeal for the preservation of our excellent and happy establishment. Mr. Burke's arguments added greatly to the effect of Mr. Pitt's reasoning, and, both united, made a deep impression on the house; on a division, the ayes were 105, the noes 296, so that the majority against the repeal, since last sessions, had increased from 20 to 185 voices. Mr. Flood's motion for a parliamentary reform was also exploded, as unseasonable and dangerous.

The minister now opened his scheme of finance for the present year: after noticing the prosperous state of the country, he recapitulated the extraordinary expences of 1789, in addition to the regular establishment.—  
Notwithstanding these unexpected demands,  
and

and though we had borrowed a million, we had paid off six millions of debt: this happy increase of revenue, principally originated in the suppression of illicit trade, and the increase of commerce and navigation. At the same time, Mr. Dundas, President of the Board of Commissioners for the Affairs of India, presented his annual statement, as required by the Regulation Act, of the financial state of India. His report was, that the revenue of India considerably \* exceeded the product of the former year.

This session, parliament granted an annuity of one thousand pounds for twenty years to Doctor Willis, who had been instrumental in the King's recovery: they also granted to the family of Penn, an American loyalist, (his case widely differed from the other loyalists) four thousand per annum to them, and their heirs, out of the consolidated fund. Mr. Wilberforce moved for the further consideration of the Slave Trade, but the

\* The debts of the company for the last year were, 7,604,754l.; those for this year, 6,501,386l., giving a decrease of 1,103,368l.

time allotted for that subject was chiefly taken up in hearing evidence, and no bill introduced.

Mr. Hastings' trial made but little progress this session. Mr. Anstruther detailed various instances of rapacity and extortion, and developed the corrupt system of the Governor. Written evidence and oral tradition were adduced; frequent altercations enlivened the scene, but procrastinated the trial.

While the nation was enjoying the blessings of peace, its tranquillity was disturbed by the alarm of war: His Majesty informed the two Houses of parliament, that some British ships had been detained by a Spanish officer at *Nootka Sound*, on the Western coast of America, their cargoes sold, and the men made prisoners: to elucidate this business, it is necessary to observe, that during the last voyage of the celebrated Captain Cook, his two ships, the *Resolution* and *Discovery* had touched at Nootka Sound, where their crews purchased from the natives a quantity of furs, which they sold to great advantage at China: This branch of trade proved so lucrative, that in the year 1788, a Mr. Mearns,  
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the principal adventurer, purchased a lot of ground from the native Indians, and built a house, which he secured and fortified, as a repository for his merchandise. This being regarded by the Spaniards as an encroachment on their exclusive right of sovereignty, the viceroy of Mexico dispatched two ships of war with orders to seize on the fort, and all the English vessels found trading on the coast. The Spanish captain executed his commission, took possession of the new factory and all the shipping; he sent the officers and men prisoners to a Spanish port, and sold the cargoes without the form of condemnation or judicature. Our cabinet remonstrated against this outrageous conduct, and demanded immediate satisfaction.\* To enforce our claim, naval armaments were ordered, and a million voted by parliament for their

\* The viceroy of Mexico restored one of the vessels, but this was not satisfactory to the nation; besides, the court of Spain proposed to give up the ship as a favor, not as a right; and asserted a direct claim of exclusive navigation and commerce in the territories, coasts,\* and seas, in that part of the world.

support.

support. Both Houses were unanimous on the occasion, and, though some were of opinion, that the object was too trivial to go war for, yet the majority were inclined for vigorous measures.

On the tenth of June, the King terminated the sessions, and on the following day parliament was dissolved.

Spain, conscious of her inability singly to cope with Great Britain, had early applied to France, to know how far she could rely, in case of a rupture, on her fulfilling the conditions of the family compact; she was however soon convinced, notwithstanding the vote of the National Assembly \* for the augmentation of their naval force, of the reluctance of France to engage in a war: yielding therefore to necessity, the court of Spain

\* The National Assembly voted an armament of fourteen ships of the line, but avowedly to protect their own commerce and colonies, and to embrace no measures, but those that were purely defensive. This resolution highly gratified the people, who were averse to go to war with England.

acceeded

acceded to our demands on the 24th of July, and a convention signed on the 28th of October, terminated the dispute. The settlement of Nootka Sound was restored, a full liberty of trade to all the North West coasts of America, and of navigation and fishery in the Southern Pacific, were confirmed to England. Both nations were equally restricted from attempting to make any settlement nearer to Cape Horn, than the most southerly plantations already established by Spain.

Relieved from the apprehension of a Spanish war, the ministry and nation, at leisure contemplated the situation of France. The British cabinet still disclaimed all interference with her affairs; and while the nobility dreaded the prevalence of democracy, the mobility remained divided in their sentiments. But the most violent opposer of the French revolution was Mr. Burke, who distinguished himself by a publication entitled *Reflections on the French Revolution*, severely reprobating the conduct and principles of the National Assembly. He predicted, from the progres-

sive enormity of their system, the completion of anarchy and misery: his profound wisdom, his solid and beneficial philosophy, enforced by his matchless eloquence, produced a wonderful change in the public sentiments: men of talents and of political consideration openly avowed themselves hostile to the revolution: this extraordinary production gave rise to numberless replies, but the most noted was Thomas Pain's *Rights of Man*;\* a mode of writing admirably calculated to gain converts in the lower ranks of the community. Pain was lavish in praise of democracy; he gave the out-line of the French, a censure on our glorious revolution in 1688, and an absolute denial of the exist-

\* *Pain's* former pamphlet called *Common Sense*, written at the interesting period of the American war, had a most magic effect on the American colonists, and paved the way for the declaration of their independence. The *Rights of Man*, appearing at a time, when a large proportion of the community were in a state of irritation, and notwithstanding its absurd, and dangerous political principles, being written in a style and manner, which comes home to man's business and bosoms, made innumerable converts by its general and levelling principles.

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ence of a constitution in England; this publication contained some few shrewd remarks, mingled with numberless absurdities.

During the political dissensions in Europe, India commenced the scene of warfare: the restless Tippo Sultan, ever hostile to the possessions of British India, claimed the feudal sovereignty of Cranganour and Jacottah, ports purchased by the Rajah of Travancour, from the Dutch, and also insisted on the renunciation of the agreement: to enforce submission, he attacked Travancour, but was repulsed with loss: He however made a second and more successful one the following year, and dispossessed the Rajah of his capital, and other territories.

The English, to counteract Tippo's hostile intentions, supported the Rajah. General Medows was in consequence ordered on an expedition into the county of Coimbatour; he made easy conquests of several forts, while that of Dindigul was reduced with difficulty. Colonel Floyd was not so successful; he was surprised by a powerful detachment from the grand army, but he firmly maintained



maintained his ground, and in a subsequent action, displayed the superiority of discipline and valor of a handful of men, to the efforts of desultory courage in multitudes. Foiled in his attempt to prevent the junction of General Medows with Colonel Maxwell, Tippe entered the carnatic, marked his progress with destructive ravage, and eluded the pursuit of General Medows. The exertions however of Colonel Heartley were more successful; he defeated a formidable body of Maissourians, and reduced Trinicalour, and other forts. General Abercrombie also gained some advantages at Canarour, and secured some important ports.

While the British arms were hostilely engaged in the last, a new Parliament met at Westminster. The contests were not so violent\* as in

\* Of all the contested elections, that of Westminster was the most noted: it was tacitly understood, that there should be no contest, but that the sitting members should be returned. This apparent determination was represented as a coalition between the sitting members, and a deception on the inhabitants. In consequence Mr. Horne Tooke, of some literary eminence, and much political notoriety, offered

in the proceeding election. The country was rapidly encreasing in prosperity: the minister possessed the confidence of the people, and no politic question agitated the public mind. Mr. Addington was unanimously re-elected Speaker. On the opening of the sessions, his Majesty expressed his satisfaction, that the difference with Spain had been amicably adjusted. He noticed, that since the last session, a foundation had been laid for a pacification between Austria and the Porte; that peace had been concluded between Russia and Sweden, but that hostilities still continued between Russia and the Porte. The principles on which I have hitherto acted, continues our gracious sovereign, will ever make me desirous of employing the weight and influence of this country in contributing to the restoration of the general tranquillity.

After some preliminary debates, Mr. Duncombe moved the address, which was sanction-

offered himself a candidate: he disavowed all party connection, and, assuming an independent tone, gained a respectable number of votes, but was finally unsuccessful.

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ed, though not unanimously, by a considerable majority. To defray the expences of the late armament (upwards of three millions) the minister, with a meritorious resolution of suffering no permanent increase of debt, proposed some temporary taxes, sufficient not only to pay the interest, but, with the aid of 500,000 of unclaimed dividends, also the principal in four years.

A. D. 1791. The temporary imposts were on sugar, malt, spirits, and game licences. The assessed taxes were augmented, and an additional duty on bills of exchange and receipts. The application of the unclaimed dividends alarmed the chartered companies, and indeed the commercial world in general. It was opposed by Mr. Fox, Mr. Thornton, governor of the Bank, and Mr. Whitbread, as an act of injustice to the state, and to the Bank. But Mr. Pitt contended, that the Directors had no right to profit by the money in question: he declared, that when the dividends were claimed, the money should be returned.

On Mr. Burke's motion for the recommencement

mencement of Hastings' trial, his friends contended, that by the late dissolution of parliament, the impeachment was at an end ; warm debates ensued ; Mr. Erskine, Mr. Hardinge, Mr. Macdonald, and Sir John Scott argued in favor of the cessation : on the other hand Mr. Pitt, Fox, and Burke, were of opinion, that the dissolution of parliament did not affect the impeachment ; if it did, continues the minister, the power and privilege of the House would be at the mercy of the Crown ; precedents, he added, favoured the claim of right, and if there were no precedents, there were principles paramount to all particular cases. The dictates of common sense, and the spirit of the constitution justified the observation of the minister.\* In the Lords, Chancellor Thurlow, and the Marquis of Lansdowne contended for the illegality of continuing the trial from one parliament to another ; while Lords Loughborough and Grenville argued on the propriety of reassuming the impeach-

\* Among the pecuniary grants of this year, was an annuity of twelve thousand a year on his majesty's third son, Prince William Henry, created Duke of Clarence.

ment.' The house, by a majority of 48, sanctioned the impeachment to be still pending.

The slave trade underwent a more able discussion in this, than in any preceding session: after a variety of arguments distinguished for their eloquence and reasoning, and the united efforts of Mr. Pitt and Fox, the motion\* was negatived by a majority of 163 to 84.

A bill, for the relief of the Roman Catholics from various penal laws, which had long harrassed that sect, received this session the sanction of parliament, as did also the adjustment of a constitution of Canada, something similar to that of ours, and with the approbation of the natives. The church of Scot-

\* Had this motion been made two years ago, while the feelings of the house were alive to the sufferings of the Negritians, there was every probability that it would have been successful. Such is the importance of seizing the fortunate and favourable motion of action! To qualify, however, this refusal, a bill was passed for chartering a company for the purpose of cultivating West India products at *Sierra Leone* on the coast of Africa, an experiment which promises to answer our most sanguine expectations.

land,

land, perceiving the disposition of parliament favourable to grant relief to Non-conformists, presented a petition for the repeal of the test acts: a motion, conformable to their petition, was made by Sir Gilbert Elliott, but was rejected.

Prior to the close of the session, an enquiry was made respecting the statement of the British Colony of New South Wales: hitherto the industry of the convicts and inhabitants had been found inadequate, without supplies from other countries, to force the soil to produce a sufficiency to maintain them; but the acquisition of Norfolk Island promises to be a valuable settlement, as the soil is fertile, well watered, abounding in oaks, pines, and other trees, and flax grows spontaneously.

The financial plan of this year was nearly the same, as the peace establishment, and no fresh imposts. From the reports of the committee, appointed to inspect, and report the annual amount of our income and expenditure, it appeared, that the income, on the average of the last five years, amounted to 16,030,286*l.* and the expenditure, including

the annual million for the liquidation of the national debt, did not exceed 15,967,178*l.* the balance, therefore, in favor of the country was 61,108*l.*\*

Mr. Dundas also produced his annual statement of Indian finance, which, since Mr. Pitt's territorial plan of government, and the commencement of Mr. Dundas's executive direction, have been progressively prosperous: it appeared from the statement that our British India revenue, (upwards of seven millions a year) after defraying the expences of the government, left a neat surplus of one million and a half, either to be laid out in investments, or applied to contingent services.

The labors of the French Assembly had now nearly completed their constitutional code; but their zeal for the propagation of their revolutionary system alarmed the poten-

\* About this time, the once popular French minister, *Necker*, finding his measures thwarted by the more popular leaders of the Assembly, and having lost the confidence of the court, resigned, and retired without one expression of public regret. Such is the caprice, and inconstancy of the public!

tates of Europe, apprehensive of danger from the influence of their doctrines. Leopold, Emperor of Germany, disgusted at their proceedings, first took the alarm; he endeavoured to interest other powers in favor of the King and royal family of France, and prevent, if possible, the fatal excesses of their revolutionary doctrines. He trusted that the King of Prussia, and his Britannic Majesty, as elector of Hanover, would have no objection to join the coalition, though as King of England, he had determined to remain neuter. Leopold, in the mean time, particularly requested the French King to abandon all thoughts of escaping from Paris, and patiently to wait the result of the intended arraignment. But the restraint laid upon his majesty by the new rulers of the nation, militated so much against his feelings, that unmindful of his brother-in-law's prudent advice, he left\* the capital, accompanied by his queen, his sister, and his two children: but, they were soon recognized, and reconducted prisoners to Paris.

\* It was Louis's intention to place himself and family under the protection of an army, firm friends to the cause.



All confidence of the King's future declarations naturally vanished.

In consequence of the conference between the King of Prussia and Leopold, the two potentates declared, that they considered the situation of the King of France as the common concern of all European sovereigns, and that they would employ the most efficacious means to enable him to consolidate the bases of a monarchical government, and combine the rights of sovereigns with a proper attention to the welfare of his subjects.

The National Assembly dissolved itself in the autumn, and was succeeded by a new body of constituents, who immediately commenced the exercise of their function. As the emigrants were active in their preparations for a hostile return to their native country, and the clergy too still continued their intrigues, the new assembly passed some penal acts against them, but the King refused to sanction these rigorous measures.\* This produced

\* Among the British subjects, who avowed themselves *the friends of liberty*, there were some who wished for a change of government, and, I fear, not inimical to a revolution.

duced loud clamours, and gave great advantage to those who wished for the total extinction of all royal prerogative.

lution. Many of this complexion celebrated the anniversary of the French revolution, in convivial meetings, at London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Norwich, and other provincial towns. At Birmingham the meeting was productive of much disturbance: the populace assembling about the hotel, where the festive party dined, manifested systems of disapprobation. After the company retired, they broke the windows of the hotel, and proceeded to other acts of violence. The new dissenting meeting-house was set on fire, and the old one nearly demolished; the house, furniture, library, and valuable philosophical apparatus of Dr. Priestly, a violent and rigid dissenter, were destroyed: several other houses shared the same fate, and some few incendiaries lost their lives. The civil power, unable to suppress the alarming tumults, called in the military, and ordered them to scour the county. Four of the rioters were found guilty, but only two of them suffered death. Dr. Priestly and others sued the county, and gained compensation for their losses. The malice of party now became outrageous: some accused the civil power of conniving at the proceedings of the rioters against individuals, suspected of want of attachment to government: others, with equal justice, affirmed, that the dissenters and their friends merited these insults for presuming to express their joy at the triumph of the French revolutionists.

A. D. 1792. The French revolution, though in Mr. Burke's opinion of the **most** alarming tendency, did not at this time operate on his Britannic Majesty, as to induce him to increase his naval or his military establishment. But on the contrary, he assured the two houses of parliament, that an immediate reduction might safely be made without detriment to the revenue, and some imposts abolished.\*

Hastings' trial, without attracting a great share of the public attention, was occasionally continued. Mr. Law made an elaborate defence of his client; he denied that his conduct had been in the least degree criminal, and attributed the preservation of our last India settlements solely to his attention and perseverance. Mr. Plomer ably seconded

\* The late additional duty on malt, waggons, and female servants, was repealed. The number of seamen did not exceed 16,000, and the landmen were reduced to 15,700. The continuation of the lottery, among the ways and means, was violently, and very justly, opposed, as tending to encourage the already too prevalent spirit of gaming.

Mr.

Mr. Law, and Mr. Dallas harangued the court with the most impressive eloquence.

The business of the slave trade was again discussed this session. Mr. Wilberforce nobly exerted himself against this inhuman traffic, while Mr. Jenkinson, Colonel Tarlton, and others contended, that the faith of parliament was pledged for the continuance of the trade : Mr. Dundas was inimical to an immediate abolition, as injurious to the West India planters, and to other interested individuals. Mr. Addington recommended the traffic to be continued for ten years, to enable the planters to raise a sufficient stock to form the basis of permanent population. Mr. Pitt was for an immediate abolition, while Mr. Fox was inimical to any compromise in a case of flagrant injustice. After various debates and divisions, the term was limited to the first day of the year 1796. The resolutions of the Commons however, did not meet with the entire approbation of the Lords ; it was warmly opposed by the Duke of Clarence, who contended that the traffic was justifiable and politic.

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An unsuccessful attempt was made to effect a reform in the royal burghs; it was warmly opposed by Mr. Burke, and a dread of its consequences, at this critical period prevailed with the house to explode it.

To check the licentiousness of the republican writers and their doctrines, his Majesty issued a proclamation, ordering the laws to be enforced against the offenders and their accomplices: it was communicated to both houses, but not received with general approbation; it was, however, a most seasonable measure, and sanctioned almost universally by the House of Lords. Addresses from all parts of the kingdom were presented to the throne, thanking his Majesty for his wise and provident proclamation.

The war in India was happily terminated this session. Earl Cornwallis took Bangalour by a nocturnal assault, and formed a junction with the cavalry of the Nizam. Before he had completed the necessary arrangement for an expedition to Seringapatam, he determined to proceed to that capital: after a fatiguing march in rainy weather, he boldly attacked the Maissourian army, and drove them to the

the very walls of the town. A siege for the present was unadvisable, the Earl,\* therefore, retired towards Bangalour, and on his march was agreeably surprised by the arrival of the long expected Indian reinforcements.

After some weeks of inaction, and the season favourable for the siege, the grand-army commenced their operations. Earl Cornwallis and General Meadows led the two divisions to attack the camp, which Tippo had fortified with uncommon care, while Colonel Maxwell advanced with the left division towards the works constructed near Carighaut Pagoda. They continued their progress, though exposed to a severe fire of cannon and musquetry, and rigorously assaulted the redoubts; after a severe contest, the Earl took possession of the camp; about 500

\* It would have been imprudent in the noble Earl then to have attempted a siege: the scarcity of provisions, the progress of disease, the want of a covering army, the approaching monsoons were powerful arguments against it: the extraordinary swell of the river Caveri prevented General Abercrombie from joining Lord Cornwallis, and no intelligence of the advance of the Mabrattas.

Europeans and Sepoys were killed and wounded, but on the part of the enemy, the slaughter was immense.

The Sultan, alarmed at the rapid progress of his enemies, strenuously exerted himself to ward off the impending storm; he repeatedly attempted to repel the troops, that had crossed the river, and recover one of the principal redoubts on its north side, but all his efforts were in vain; his disheartened troops gradually deserted, and after the failure of a most diabolical attempt to assassinate the Governor-general, he humbly sued for peace. Disapproving of the terms, he suffered the siege to continue to the last extremity: he at last agreed to resign one half of his dominions, to the release of prisoners, and to the payment of three crores, and thirty lacks of rupees. Valuable districts on the coasts of Malabar, and in the vicinity of the Carnatic, were selected for the India Company: an equal portion of territory, and a third part of the treasure was allotted to the Nizam, and Mahratta state, and two of Tippo's sons were delivered as hostages for the execution of the agreement.

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The Emperor Leopold was not very eager to commence hostilities in favor of the King and the royal family of France ; he seemed more inclined to trust to the effect of an armed confederacy for the preservation of the peace of Europe. Prior, however, to the commencement of hostilities, the emperor died, and the King of Sweden,\* more zealous in the cause, was assassinated. Francis, Leopold's son and successor, hurried on by the aspiring ardor of youth, by the persuasions of the court of Petersburg, and the principal French emigrants, and by a promise of support from Prussia, adopted measures more decidedly hostile, than those of his father ; and on his refusing to disavow his supposed intentions, war was declared against him.

The first hostile operations were not momentous ; the French rushed into the Netherlands, and reduced several towns, but the approach of a Prussian army induced them to

\* It is the general opinion, the Leopold was poisoned, and the death of the King of Sweden undoubtedly originated in a faction of disaffected nobles.

retreat.



retreat. The Duke of Brunswick, \* supreme of the combined armies of Prussia and Austria, distinguished himself by a violent and absurd manifesto. His outrageous and impotent menaces greatly injured the cause they were intended to support.

The dread of the re-establishment of despotism by foreign aid, urged many Frenchmen of moderate principles to join the Jacobins rather than forward the views of the contending powers. Addresses from different bodies evidently procured by the artful machinations of those demagogues, who had annihilated the interest of the constitutional party, were presented to the Legislative Assembly, demanding the deposition of the king; and to secure the triumph of the anti-monarchial cause, an attack on the palace was planned by Danton, Chabot, Collott D'Herbois, and other incendiaries, that a scene of bloodshed might take

\* The duke intimated to the *Parisians*, (as if on the point of entering their city in triumph) that if the King was not restored to his liberty, all the members of the Assembly, all the magistrates, and the national guards should be decapitated, and the city given up to military execution.

place, in which the guilt of aggression might be imputed to the royalists, whose leader would naturally become so obnoxious, that a decree for his dethronement might easily be obtained.

The king, apprised of the intended scheme, took every precaution for his defence ; but when the insurgents, headed by Marseillois and Bretons, pressed forward to the assault, he was persuaded to take refuge with his queen and family, in the hall of the assembly. The insurgents, who were provided with artillery, first commenced the attack ; the Swiss guards returned their fire, and killed many, but the chief massacre was among the royalists who were slaughtered and almost annihilated. During these sanguinary conflicts the assembly voted the suspension of Louis from all authority, leaving his final doom to be decided by a national convention. He was ordered into confinement in the Temple, and from the fatal malevolence of his enemies, his friends foreboded his destruction. La Fayette, who commanded the army on the Netherlands, exhorted them to enforce the restoration of their sovereign to constitutional authority : but find-

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ing his persuasion ineffectual, and apprehensive for his own safety, he quitted the camp, but was arrested by the combined army, and detained a prisoner for his original concern in the revolution.

On the intelligence of the king's suspension the British cabinet immediately recalled our ambassador, Lord Gower, as his credentials had lost their validity.

While the combined armies were active in besieging the frontier towns, fresh commotions arose from the inflammable spirit of the French. Some of the sanguinary zealots (particularly Marat) persuaded the ferocious mob to enter the prisons, and to murder the unfortunate captives, who, he said, would take the first opportunity of joining the combined armies: they followed his advice, and indiscriminately butchered all that came in their way.\*

\* Numbers of the king's friends had been taken in custody, and confined in Paris, and other towns; among others were the *Duke de Brisac*, the *Count de Montmorin*, the *Princess de Lamballe*, and other persons of distinction, besides many ecclesiastics, fell victims to the insatiate fury of this horde of assassins.

The Duke of Brunswick's expedition fell greatly short of the expectations of the confederate powers. It is true he was master of the high road to Paris, but the numerous obstacles which impeded his progress, constrained him to abandon the country he had invaded.\* The king of Sardinia, having joined the confederacy, was punished with the loss of the duchy of Savoy. Germany now commenced the seat of war, and the victory gained by Dumouriez over an army strongly entrenched, put the French in possession of the major part of the Netherlands. Prior to the retreat of the Duke of Brunswick, the French Convention had assembled, and so anxious to complete their schemes, that royalty was abolished on the first day of meeting, and a republic instituted in its stead: preparations were also ordered for a judicial process against the dethroned sovereign.

\* The Duke's retrograde motion was principally owing to a want of the means of subsistence, to the ravages disease had made in his camp, and to his discovering, that was a nation, not merely a faction, he had to contend with; in our humble opinion his retreat was not the consequence of pecuniary offers.

Brissot, Roland, and others, formerly members of the Jacobin Society, though now a distinct hostile party, were very solicitous to preserve the life of a king in whose deposition they had concurred; but they did not exert that decisive spirit so necessary to counteract the sanguinary ferocity of *Marat*, the cool malignity of *Robespierre*, and the violent energy of *Danton*.

The trial of the French king was pending when the British parliament was hastily summoned. The conduct of some of our democratic societies, and the application of their members to the French Assembly, had alarmed the cabinet:\* the king, who had ordered the militia to be embodied, informed parliament, that some recent events had taken place, which demanded the greatest vigilance

\* If the combined continental powers, instead of alarming the suspicions, or provoking the resentment of France, had candidly negotiated with the ruling party, the life of the French monarch would probably have been saved. But the hostile and intemperate proceedings of the confederate potentates, accelerated the catastrophe, they professed a desire to prevent.

and

exertion, to prevent the loss of the  
 l and political advantages long enjoyed  
 the nation. The seditious practices,  
 ich had been checked for a time, had of  
 e been more openly received, and with  
 ecreased activity. The spirit of disorder had  
 rewn itself in acts of riot and insurrection ;  
 he industry, employed to diffuse discontent,  
 ppeared to proceed from a design to attempt  
 he destruction of our happy constitution, and  
 the subversion of all order and government ;  
 and this design had evidently been pursued  
 in concert with persons of foreign countries.  
 He had scrupulously abstained from all inter-  
 ference in the internal affairs of France, but  
 he could not see, without the most serious  
 uneasiness, the strong indications which its  
 rulers had given of an intention of fomenting  
 disturbances in other countries, and pursuing  
 schemes of conquest and aggrandisement ;  
 and their views against her allies the States-  
 general he particularly disapproved, because  
 not only the law of nations, but the sti-  
 pulations of treaties, opposed their pretensions.  
 Amidst these grounds of alarms, he had

thought it his duty to take some steps for the augmentation of his naval and military force.\* At the same time, he would neglect nothing that could contribute to the preservation of the blessings of peace, consistently with the security of his dominions, and the performance of his engagements. It was a great consolation for him to reflect, that ample resources for rigorous preparations would be found in the excess of the revenue above the ordinary expenditure. He trusted that the means of enforcing obedience to the laws, and repressing all seditious attempts, would be the objects of immediate deliberation, as the defence of that constitution, which had so long protected the liberties and promoted the happiness of every class of his subjects, claimed an early and earnest attention.

Violent debates ensued on some part:

\* In condemning the proceedings of the French Majesty alluded to a decree for granting fraternal alliance to such societies, as were desirous of procuring liberty, to an order for incorporating Savoy with the new republic, and to an intention of opening the S-

royal speech. Mr. Fox declared, that alarm was occasioned by art and imposture, rather than by any real danger, and that we had more reason to dread the encroachments of the crown, than the seditious intrigues of the people, and he moved an enquiry into the truth of the ministerial allegations. Lord Wycombe disapproved some parts of the King's speech, as containing calumnious animadversions on the conduct of the people. Mr. Windham on the other hand contended, that the country was in danger from the traitorous machinations of the enemies of our constitution, while Mr. Grey and Sheridan were of opinion, that the dangers were merely imaginary. Mr. Burke asserted the existence of a dangerous and active confederacy, zealous to reform our government according to the French model; but he hoped the house would be unanimous in counteracting such execrable machinations. Mr. Fox's motion was lost by a majority of 240, and of course the address passed. In the House of Lords, it passed with little opposition, save from the

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the Duke of Norfolk, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and Lord Rawdon.

In consequence of his Majesty's speech, numerous associations were formed for the defence of liberty and property, against the innovations of republicans and levellers; and many loyal publications were distributed among the people. These spirited resolutions alarmed *M. Chauvelin*: he demanded a categorical answer to the question whether Great Britain should be considered as a neutral power, or as hostile to France? Lord Grenville replied, that the only way for the French to secure the amity or the forbearance of Great Britain, would be to renounce all views of aggression and aggrandisement. *M. Chauvelin* explained the degree of fraternity, as only promising aid with the general consent of the nation; he disclaimed all ideas of conquest, and that the affair of the Schelde should be referred to the unbiassed determination of the inhabitants of the Netherlands; but these declarations were pronounced vague and unsatisfactory.

To guard against the machinations of the French,

French, and other intriguing foreigners in this country, a bill\* passed for the restraint of aliens. The French envoy remonstrated against the arbitrary provisions of a bill, which encroached on the lawful freedom of the French in England. But Lord Grenville replied, that it only authorised such precautions, as already existed in France, and that all remonstrance would have no effect, as his credentials from the republic were not allowed.

A. D. 1793. During the recess of parliament, the fate of the French king was determined, and he fell a sacrifice to the rage of a merciless and sanguinary faction. Had the

\* In the debate on this bill, Mr. Burke reprobated the opinions and conduct of Mr. Fox, and to render his eloquence more impressive, he drew forth a dagger, as a sample of an order for a manufacture of 3000 at Birmingham: he threw the weapon on the floor saying, *this is what you will gain by fraternizing with France*. Sir Gilbert Elliot, and Sir Peter Burrell, friends of Mr. Fox, now declared, that from the consideration of the late disregard of that gentleman's to the true principles of the constitution, that they could no longer give him their support.

king been suffered to appeal to the people, he would undoubtedly have been saved. He bore his sentence with magnanimity, but his inexorable judges were assailed with general execration.

On the intelligence of the King's fate in England, Chauvelin was ordered to quit the kingdom: this peremptory mandate was deemed by the French, as decidedly hostile.

His Majesty, after acquainting Parliament of the dismissal of Chauvelin, expressed his reliance on their support for the best means of prevention and defence. Lord Grenville, in discussing his Majesty's message, reprobated the atrocious act, which engrossed the attention of all Europe. His Lordship remarked that the promised neutrality of our court was conditional, depending on the proper treatment of the Royal Family of France.

He urged the necessity of our arming for the protection of our allies, and to prevent the alarming aggrandizements of the French. The Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earls of Derby and Stanhope contended that such a  
war

war would be unnecessary and consequently unjustifiable, and that it might easily and honourably be avoided. But the speeches of Lord Chancellor Loughborough, the Earls of Darnley and Carlisle, Lords Stormont and Portchester were decidedly hostile; and an address of support was voted to his Majesty. In the House of Commons, Mr. Pitt deplored the fate of the French King; he deprecated the enormity of the principles of the republican rulers; principles pregnant with destruction to all religion, morality, and social order, and finally will reduce mankind to a state of the most dreadful anarchy. Mr. Fox admitted that it was our duty to assist the States-General, if they desired it: he confessed that the degree of fraternity was an insult to Europe, but no just ground for hostilities: after several debates, an address passed without a division.

The address had no sooner been presented, than his Majesty announced the French declaration of war against Great Britain and the United Provinces. The French Convention alleged, that his Britannic Majesty had favoured

favoured the coalition of the royal princes, had in many instances violated the treaty of 1756, had refused to acknowledge the new government of France, had equipped an armament against the Republic, and had seduced the Stadtholder into similar measures of hostility.

Lord Grenville moved for an address to his Majesty, which was carried without a division. Mr. Pitt reprobated the groundless pretensions of the French for a declaration of war; and, as we were forced into hostilities, he hoped that the zeal of the country would second the views of the court. Mr. Fox had no objection to sanction an address for defensive measures, but he could not vote for one, which imputed unprovoked aggression to the French. Mr. Burke maintained that a more necessary and justifiable war could not be conceived; but Mr. Sheridan warmly contended against the supposed necessity, and strongly condemned the absurdity of making infidelity a ground for war. After some other debates, the address passed, and

considerable

considerable additions were made to our naval and military force.

The slave trade was reassumed this session, and produced fresh debates, but no decisive measures were adopted. Several petitions from Warwick, Derby, Birmingham, and other towns, praying a parliamentary reform, were presented to the commons. Mr. Grey expatiated on the defects and grievances of the present system, and moved for a committee of enquiry. Mr. Pitt contended that the people were not desirous for a reform; he deprecated the attempt in these perturbed times. Mr. Windham was of opinion, that the defects of the constitution, if any, could not be corrected without danger of impairing its excellencies, and that the experiment might be fatal in its consequences. Messrs. Fox and Sheridan approved of the committee of enquiry; they contended that a compliance with reasonable and constitutional requests would tend to silence clamour, and foil the machinations of seditious revolutionists. Mr. Erskine enlarged on the prevailing abuses; but the Earl of Mornington considered

sidered them unworthy of notice, when compared with the benefits of the parliamentary constitution. The enquiry was negatived by a majority of 241.

The supplies, 16,698,000*l.* were readily voted by the Commons. Four millions and a half were borrowed; some new imposts, at first intended to be only temporary, were continued.

An alarm, occasioned by the failure of *some* mercantile houses, chiefly from the abuse of paper credit, drew the attention of parliament. In consequence, an act, seasonable for the revival of commercial credit, passed, for the distribution of five millions of exchequer bills, among such traders as might apply for relief, on giving security in goods.

The institution of a board of agriculture received the royal sanction this session, and Sir John Sinclair, the original projector, was appointed president of the institution. To conciliate the Catholics of Ireland, a bill was introduced, granting the right of voting for the election of members of parliament, also of holding particular offices, from which they  
had

had been long excluded, and the full toleration of religion and property. All assemblies convened in the name of the people, under pretence of petitioning for alterations of the laws, or remonstrating against supposed grievances, were declared illegal.\*

\* A convention had been signed in the spring between our Court and Petersburg for the prosecution of hostilities, till the French should relinquish all their conquests; a treaty was also concluded with the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel for a subsidy of 8000 men, and soon after extended to 12,000. The king of Sardinia had also engaged for 200,000 pounds annually, to keep up a standing army of 50,000 men, for the defence of his dominions, and in the general service against the enemy. An alliance also was adjusted with Spain, Naples, and others; with Prussia, Austria, and Portugal.



ANNALS  
OF  
**George the Third.**

BOOK V.

FROM THE COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES  
WITH THE FRENCH REPUBLIC, TO THE  
PEACE OF AMIENS.

A.D. 1793. **VISIONS** of aerial conquest floated in the imaginations of the combined Powers, when Great Britain joined the confederacy: they fondly flattered themselves with a speedy termination of hostilities, and that the new republic would soon yield to such a formidable host of foes. But they  
were

were not aware of the prevalent zeal of enthusiasm, when opposed to the violators of national independence and popular freedom.

An attack against the Dutch upon Breda, which, however, soon capitulated, was the first act of hostility. The Prince de Saxe-Cobourg, the Austrian general, obtained a complete victory over the French at Aix-la-Chapelle; the loss in killed, wounded, and prisoners were upwards of 5000. The discomfited French made a precipitate retreat to Liege, and their consternation extended to the camp of Miranda, then besieging Maestricht: he, however, immediately raised the siege, and took refuge in Brabant.

Dumouriez was appointed to take the command of the dispirited troops: he was at first successful, but near Landen, he was finally defeated with the loss of 3000 men, and obliged to retreat to the borders of France. Dumouriez had for some time been inimical to the Jacobins, on account of his resistance to their sanguinary system; they therefore sought an opportunity to crush him. In consequence commissioners were dispatched from

from Paris to arrest him; but, instead of suffering them to take him into custody, he ordered them to be delivered up to the Austrians, as hostages for the safety of the Royal Family of France; he also made an unsuccessful attempt to effect a counter-revolution; but, alarmed for his personal safety, he fled to Mons, and tendered his services to the allies; meeting with no encouragement, he quitted the army. Dampierre was appointed his successor: He repelled the assailants near Valenciennes: In a conflict near St. Amand, the British troops, under the command of the Duke of York, gained great credit by their spirited exertions: By their active conduct, assisted by the Austrians and Prussians, they compelled the French to retreat. Dampierre was mortally wounded, and 4000 of his troops killed and made prisoners. British discipline and valor appeared also to great advantage in an attack made on the well fortified camp of Famars; the French were dislodged, though not without great slaughter on both sides.

Valen-

Valenciennes and Condée were now closely besieged ; the latter, after a blockade of three months, surrendered ; but Valenciennes made a more obstinate resistance, and some of the out-works were taken by assault ; but when threatened with a general assault, the garrison capitulated on condition of not serving against the allies during the remainder of the war.

An attack on Dunkirk was resolved upon ; to cover the Duke of York's march, the hereditary Prince of Orange forced Linçelles, but was soon dispossessed of it by a superior force. The necessity of waiting for heavy artillery, and the delay of naval preparations, gave the French time to prepare for the defence of the town. They made a successful attack on the Hanoverian General Freytag, and compelled him to retreat with considerable loss. Prince Adolphus, his Majesty's youngest son, and Freytag, were made prisoners in their retreat, but seasonably rescued by a detachment. Despairing of success, the Duke abandoned the siege of Dunkirk,

kirk,\* with the loss of his artillery and ammunition.

In Germany, the allied armies for a time had the advantage over the French. They were repeatedly victorious; they recovered the city of Mentz, and attacked the lines of Wissembourg. The Spaniards having invaded France, reduced Bellegarde and Collioure. The spirit of revolt manifested itself at Marseilles, Toulon, and Lyons. At Toulon, the mal-contents, decidedly hostile to the Convention, agreed to surrender that port to Lord Hood, commander of the British fleet in the Mediterranean, on his promise of assistance for the recovery of the constitution of 1789, and also with a proviso of restitution of Louis XVII. or his eventual successor.

Brissot was the chief instrument in the insurrection at Lyons. Though his party had been compelled to submit to the inhu-

\* Houbard, the Governor of Dunkirk, was put to death by order of the French Convention for suffering the besieging army to escape.

man proceedings of the Jacobins against the King, yet they still retained no inconsiderable share of influence. To annihilate their power was one of the leading objects of Robespierre; he at length effected his sanguinary purpose, and the Convention decreed the arrest of Brissott \* and his associates. The dread of the *guillotine*, that new and awful engine of decapitation, spread its terrors over the whole country. Summary jurisdiction was executed by the inhuman and unprincipled creatures of the Convention, and the least repugnance to their mandates was punished with unexampled rigour. Many opulent citizens were reduced to poverty, or inhumanly murdered, for the sake of adding their property to the public stock.

The petty European States were either awed or bribed from joining the confederacy, and the influence of the French Republic increased to an amazing extent.

\* Brissott, Pethion, and his associates, were not immediately brought to trial, but were detained several months in prison.

Marie Antoinette,\* the deposed Queen, after a tedious and solitary confinement, was brought to her trial. She was arraigned as an enemy to the liberties of the people; condemned by a servile jury, and suffered by the guillotine. The Duke of Orleans, who had been notoriously active for the death of his sovereign, and vainly hoped to succeed to his power, was tried and guillotined, as was also Brissott, and many of his adherents.

At Lyons, the Republicans completely prevailed. General Doppet, after a vigorous resistance, entered the city, wantonly laid waste the town, and without even the formality of a trial, indiscriminately butchered thousands of the inhabitants. Toulon made a spirited resistance; in one of the *sorties* by the garrison, General O'Hara was wounded and made prisoner. The increasing force

\* The Queen of France, in the days of her prosperity, was not particularly noted for her prudence, modesty, or irreproachable manners, but her character, though by no means correct, attacked by the malignancy of party, was aspersed beyond her demerits.

of the enemy alarmed the allies, and determined them to abandon a place they saw no prospect of retaining ; but, prior to their retreat, Sir Sidney Smith gallantly volunteered his services in burning their store-houses and their shipping, amidst an incessant fire from the approaching foe. A dreadful conflagration ensued. Nine ships of the line, some in a state of repair, and others on the stocks, besides an immense quantity of naval stores, were destroyed. Three ships of the line, four frigates, and several sloops were added to the British navy. As many of the insurgents as could be stowed in the returning ships were brought off, while those who were left behind were appalled, and not without good reason, at their impending fate. Numberless unfortunate victims were immolated to the tutelar genius of the Republic, and streams of blood of reputed traitors, many of them innocent and respectable characters, flowed in copious torrents.

The energy and vigour of the republican party, and their late decree for rendering the Republic an armed nation, produced a won-



derful effect in their favour. The Duke of York had abandoned Dunkirk, and the allies were not more successful in the Netherlands; for though the Duke and General Wurmser had gained some advantages, yet the irresistible mass of the Republican army so completely prevailed, after four successive days severe conflict, that the lines of Weissenbourg were recovered, and Landau relieved from blockade by the retreat of the Austrians and Prussians. The cities of Worms and Spires surrendered, and immense stores fell into the hands of the victors.

The hostile fleets were almost entirely inactive this year. An expedition against Tobago easily subjugated that island; but a similar one against Martinique completely failed. In India, Pondicherri, and several of the French factories and ships were taken as soon as the intelligence of hostilities arrived.

Our naval commanders in the Mediterranean, in concert with our diplomatic ministers, attempted to intimidate the Duke of Tuscany, and the republic of Genoa, from  
joining

joining the coalition, but a dread of war and French influence prevailed over British menaces.\*

A. D. 1794. His Majesty, on opening this new session of parliament, observed, " that he and his subjects were engaged in a most arduous conflict, on the issue of which depended the maintenance of the national constitution, laws, religion, liberty and the security of all kind of civil society: having noticed the advantages gained by the confederate powers, his Majesty added, that the circumstances, which had hitherto impeded their progress, not only proved the necessity of vigor and perseverance, but confirmed the expectation of ultimate success. The French had derived the means of temporary

\* During these hostilities a declaration on the part of Great Britain was published: it vindicated our interference as essential to the security and repose of other powers, and the necessity of our arming for the establishment of order in France: the declaration recommended an hereditary monarchy, though not to the exclusion of any other form of government, consistent with the safety and peace of Europe.

exertion from a system which had enabled them arbitrarily to dispose of the lives and property of a numerous people ; but these effects, productive as they had been of internal discontent and confusion, tended rapidly to exhaust the national and real strength of the kingdom. He lamented the necessity of the continuance of the war, but he thought that he should ill consult the essential interest of his people, if he desired peace on any other grounds exclusive of a due provision for their permanent safety, and for the independence and security of Europe. He begged leave further to observe, that an attack had been made on him and his allies, founded on principles tending to the destruction of all property, to the subversion of the laws and religion of every civilized nation and to the general introduction of a horrible system of rapine, anarchy and impiety."

Lord Auckland warmly supported the address : he reprobated the French government, and execrated the spirit of rapine, impiety, despotism, and inhumanity, so repugnant to the laws of both God and man

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He acknowledged that the republican leaders had manifested uncommon abilities, and had called into action a most formidable force ; but he trusted that the confederate powers would be able to stem the torrent, and rescue Europe from the horrors of anarchy and ruin. The Earl of Guilford recommended a speedy negotiation, as we had wantonly rushed into the war ; and for that purpose proposed an amendment. The Duke of Portland justified the war, as necessary for the preservation of the Christian religion, of our civil and political liberty, and for the maintenance of law and order. Lord Grenville inveighed against the declaration, the opinions, and the conduct of the different parties in France ; he endeavoured to shew, from the convulsed state of the kingdom, the little prospect of success from a negotiation with such an enemy. Earls Spencer and Coventry supported the cause of hostilities. The Duke of Norfolk asserted, that he had as strong a zeal for the support of our constitution, as any peer of the realm ; but that his zeal did not urge him to become an advocate

advocate for the war, as he did not conceive that our happy constitution was endangered by the French outrages. The Earl of Derby wished that the objects of the war might be defined, but the Earl of Mansfield contended that it was sufficiently marked out in the speech from the throne. It was not as was the opinion of many, a war of kings; it was of a much more important nature, being directed to the preservation of general order, religion and morality. As the French had not abandoned those alarming principles, which had roused us to arms, and, as their government was that of a faction, instead of the permanent power of legitimate rulers, it would be impolitic and unsafe to negotiate with such an enemy. On a division there appeared 97 contents, and only 12 non contents.

In the Commons, Lord Wycombe proposed an amendment in favor of pacific overtures. The Earl of Mornington opposed a negotiation as not likely to be effectual in the present circumstances, and advised a perseverance of the most rigorous exertions.

Mr. Sheridan confessed himself ignorant of the real ground of the war ; but he was well acquainted with the means by which we had been led into it. He frankly acknowledged, that the new republic had been guilty of the most outrageous enormities, but their excesses originated with those officious zealots who had treated the republicans as monsters, and had driven them to desperation and phrenzy. He was of opinion, that the French had no inclination to go to war with Great Britain, but it appeared on our part a war of choice rather than of necessity. Mr. Fox deprecated the management of the war, and augured disgrace from the continuance of the present administration : it had been alledged, " With whom shall we treat, and that no treaty could be secure under such a Jacobin government." But he was of opinion, that a peace might be as secure, as if the monarchy of France had subsisted. If, however, a negotiation should fail, we should at least have the satisfaction of convincing the world, that the continuance of the war on our part was strictly defensive, and thus render

render it more popular. Mr. Pitt contended, that negotiation would be humiliating, and unseasonable. The grounds of contest, he said, still existed; the French continued to act upon principles subversive of all regular government, and destructive of social order. They had been guilty of territorial usurpation, had formed hostile intentions against Holland, and disclosed views of the most unbounded ambition and rapacity. They had disgraced themselves by the most outrageous cruelties and the most execrable enormities; and their conduct was so dreadfully dangerous to the independence and security of other nations, that unless they should adopt a new course of action, peace would be less deniable, than even the most disastrous war. If the war had been ill conducted, a change of ministers might be expedient; but nothing which had recently occurred, could justify a change of our system. Mr. Fox's amendment, in favor of peace, was lost by a majority of 218, and the original address voted.

The detention of some Hessian troops in the Isle of Wight, without the previous consent

sent of parliament, furnished a subject for debate. In the Commons Mr. Grey moved, that the house should declare it contrary to law; and the Earl of Albemarle in the Lords, contended for the propriety of passing an act of indemnity on account of this innovation, but both houses were unanimous, that the minister deserved no blame.

A demand for 85,000 seamen passed unanimously, but, the augmentation of the army to 60,000 men, met with some trifling opposition, though the majority sanctioned the measure.

The whole supply of the year was, 20,228,000*l*. As a loan was negotiated for eleven millions, some additional duties were imposed on glass, bricks, paper, spirituous liquors, and a new tax on attorneys. A bill also passed for the augmentation of the militia, and, as an invasion was menaced by the French republic, the cabinet encouraged volunteer associations, both of cavalry and infantry. Subscriptions were solicited to defray the expences of these associations, and considerable sums were raised, before the measure

was



was sanctioned by parliament. This irregular act did not escape the censure of both houses.

In the rage for hostilities, it was proposed to enlist the French emigrants into the royal service. This measure, as pregnant with danger to the troops, and the cruelty of sending men to immediate destruction, was opposed by the Duke of Bedford and Mr. Sheridan, but was warmly recommended by Mr. Burke, Mr. Dundas, and other speakers, as a just and politic measure.

An address was proposed by the Earl of Guildford, disapproving of the alliance which had been concluded with the foreign powers, as prejudicial to the British interest, and also a similar one in the Commons by Mr. Grey ; but these motions were as unsuccessful as those of the Earl of Stanhope for the acknowledgment of the French Republic, and of the Marquis of Lansdowne's for a pacific negotiation.

A message from his Majesty, respecting the seditious practices of democratic societies, and the immediate necessity of vigorous

rious measures for counteracting their dangerous designs, was now presented to the Commons. The papers belonging to these societies were examined by a committee, and a report presented by Mr. Pitt. It came out, on enquiry, that the *Society for Constitutional Information*, and *The London Corresponding Society*, under the specious mask of reform, aimed at the subversion of the government; that other associations, in different parts of the kingdom, pursued the same object; that it was their wish to promote a general convention of the people: that they were prepared with arms, more effectually to accomplish their nefarious designs; that a meeting of \* *popular delegates* took place at Edinburgh in 1792 and 1793, that their proceedings were regulated on the French model; and that, after the dissolution of this meeting, the two leading societies were very active to promote a similar one in England, which

\* Two of these seditious leaders of reform, Muir and Palmer, were tried at Edinburgh in 1793, and sentenced to transportation.

should

should supersede the authority of the British Parliament.

The minister, to counteract these seditious schemes, proposed the suspension of the *Habeas Corpus Act*, in cases of treason and sedition. Mr. Fox contended, that this stretch of power was not justified by the evidence that had been adduced; and Mr. Sheridan deprecated it, as unconstitutional and dangerous. Mr. Windham recommended the strongest measures of coercion, and Mr. Burke was convinced that the power would not be abused, but would be attended with salutary effects. After many spirited debates, the bill passed, and an address was voted, promising the co-operation of both Houses for the suppression of all seditious attempts and treasonable conspiracies.

Prior to the prorogation of Parliament, the Duke of Bedford proposed, as preliminaries to a peace, an explicit declaration of the object of the war, and a disavowal of all interference with the internal affairs of the French Republic. Mr. Fox made a similar  
motion

motion in the Commons, but both Houses exploded all conciliatory propositions.\*

It was the general opinion, that Mr. Hastings's trial would have closed the last session ; but the speeches, both from the managers and from the advocates, and the further examination of witnesses, procrastinated it another session. The Marquis of Cornwallis gave his testimony, and it was in favor of the prisoner. Replies followed. Mr. Burke descanted with the most impressive eloquence on the leading features of the impeachment, and argued the claims of eternal justice. Thus closed the process of accusation.

The association of combined powers are rarely successful ; a want of concert prevails, a secession follows, to the great joy of an enemy, who might otherwise have been vanquished by the efforts of concordant allies.

\* On the day of the prorogation of Parliament, Earl Fitzwilliam was appointed President of the Council ; the Duke of Portland became one of the Secretaries of State ; Earl Spencer was declared Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Mr. Windham, Secretary at War.

The want of unanimity in Austria and Prussia, and the jealousy which each had conceived of the other, determined the Duke of Brunswick to resign the command of the army, whose efforts, he was convinced, would be rendered ineffectual by the fatal rivalry of the confederate powers.

The Emperor of Germany commanded\* in person the combined armies, and led them to action in eight columns; after many repeated incidents of military prowess, and with various success on both sides, the Republican arms prevailed, and reduced most part of the Netherlands. Near Tuscany brisk action took place to the disadvantage of the French, and though they obtained a victory over General Clairfait, near Courtray they were defeated by General Kaunitz near Mons. In another conflict near Tournay they prevailed by superiority of numbers and the allies were routed with considerable loss, and the Duke of York escaped with

\* The Duke of York refused to serve under the Austrian General Clairfait, or any other subject of the Emperor of Germany.

difficulty. In another engagement, the fate of the day was long doubtful, but finally decided in favor of the allies, with the loss, on the side of the French, of upwards of 10,000 killed, wounded, and prisoners. But the most memorable action in the Netherlands took place at Fleur: as Prince DeSaxe-Cobourgh, aware of the importance of the besieged town of Charleroi, determined him to hazard a battle for its relief, as he was then unacquainted that the town had capitulated. The Prince, in consequence, attacked the army of Jourdan, near Gosselies, and with no inconsiderable share of success; thrice were the French driven back to their entrenchments with great loss; thrice did their General return to the conflict, and, reinforced with fresh troops, at last prevailed, after a severe contest of fifteen hours. The loss of the allies,\* in killed or wounded, were not less than 10,000, and the rest made a precipitate retreat.

\* The Duke of York and his army had no share in these disastrous conflicts, which for four successive days, thinned the ranks of Clairfaut and Moreau, near Ypres.

The disasters of the Austrians, and the reduction of Ypres, compelled the Duke of York to abandon Tournay : the British garrison evacuated Ostend ; as also did the Austrians Mons, under Prince De Saxe-Cobourg, who, a second time, defeated by Jourdan, abandoned Brussels to the victorious foe. The cities of Louvain, Nieuport, Namur, and Antwerp, followed this signal success, and the United Provinces were menaced with the terrors of republican hostility.

Let us now animadvert to the sanguinary contests and outrageous excesses of the leader of the Republican Convention, *Maximilian Robespierre*. Anxious for the maintenance of his power, he watched the movements of all parties, harassed all who murmured, and sacrificed all who opposed him. Suspicious that Hebert, and other principals of the *Cordelier* club, were aiming at political rivalry, he accused them of being traitors to the Republic, and coolly sacrificed them, without remorse, to his fears and to his ambition. Danton was another victim ;  
he

he, however, merited the rigor of his fate. Executions were now wantonly multiplied : even the sister of Louis XVI. a virtuous and respectable character, did not escape the diabolical inhumanity of this tyrannical monster.\*

Such a series of enormities roused a general clamour, and, by rendering their existence precarious, alarmed all ranks of the Republic. Tallien, Barras, Freron, and other spirited members of the Convention, resolved to crush the tyrant, or perish in the attempt. Their united efforts prevailed, and procured a decree of arrest. The commandant of the Parisian guard, Henriot, attempted to resist the party who opposed his patron Robespierre, but a vote of outlawry over-awed even the armed force ; and the spirited exertions of the friends of the Convention, secured the public tranquillity. In a paroxysm of de-

\* The passive subserviency of an oppressed community, and the servile submission of the Legislative Body, to the tyranny of this cruel despot, astonished and disgusted all Europe.



spair, he, who had destroyed so many of his fellow subjects, now attempted to destroy himself; but he was prevented, and beheaded with his chief associates, amidst the triumphant exultations of the spectators.

Thus fatal was the exist of this tyrannical monster, Maximilian Robespierre.\* He was formerly an obscure provincial advocate, but, profiting by the convulsed times, he acquired an ascendancy, superior to that of ordinary royalty. He possessed no brilliant abilities or impressive eloquence, but, upon the whole, his talents were not despicable: he was artful, specious, and insinuating; he was ungrateful, resentful, treacherous and implacable. His ruling passion was ambition; he obtained his exorbitant influence by his great attention to the mobility, whose attachment he secured by an affected regard for their in-

\* The exorbitant cruelty of Robespierre had extorted a decree from the Convention for the murder of every British and Hungarian soldier who fell into their hands; but the troops were not so base, as to accede to this inhuman order.

terests,

terests, by an hypocritical profession of patriotism, and by an appearance of disinterested integrity.

After subjugating all the Austrian lower countries, save Luxemburgh, the Republicans made an easy conquest of Le Quesnoy, and the other towns which had been captured by the allies. The Prussians were almost wholly inactive in this campaign: the city of Treves surrendered to the Republicans, as did also the greater part of the country between the Maes and the Rhine.

Against the Spaniards the Republicans were eminently successful: they routed a Spanish detachment, though of superior force, near St. Jean de Lux, and possessed themselves of Fontarabia and St. Sebastian. They were equally as successful at Alberdes, at Colioure, and at Mougá, where their General Dugommier was killed. After storming the well-fortified works near Figueres, they subjugated every town that lay in that rout, and filled the country with consternation.

In Italy they reduced Col De Tende,

Onégia, and some districts in the southern part of Piedmont.

The reduction of Corsica employed the English in the Mediterranean. Lord Hood, after the surrender of the San Fiorenzo, attacked the town and forts of Bastia. Unable to withstand the unanimous and zealous exertions of our seamen and sailors, the town and fort were reduced with little loss. Through the influence of General Paoli, the Corsican assembly voted that the sovereignty of the island should be transferred to the King of Great Britain.

This conquest was succeeded by a splendid naval victory in the Atlantic. Admiral Lord Howe was cruising off the coast of Bretagne, when he was informed that the republican Admiral Villaret-Joyeuse had sailed from Brest. Coming up with the enemy to the westward of Ushant, Admiral Pasley gallantly attacked their rear, and on the following day, a smart engagement ensued. Having obtained, by superior nautical skill, the weather gage, the gallant veteran brought the French to a close and general action.

His

His Lordship, in the Queen Charlotte, broke the line, and displayed a happy union of skill and intrepidity. Captain Harvey \* in the Brunswick, engaged several ships with great gallantry ; after a severe conflict with the Le Vengeur, she struck, but too late to save her from sinking. Captain Berkley of the Marlborough, had to contend with two ships at the same time, he disabled one, and the other sheared off. The line was broken in three places ; at last British valor was crowned with a brilliant and important victory. Though the humanity of the English saved many of the French on this occasion, yet upwards of 300 were drowned. At the close of this memorable action, Lord Howe found that six ships of the line had been taken, and, that their loss amounted to 690 killed, and 580 wounded ; a number far exceeding the official list of sufferers (904) in the whole British fleet.

Sir Charles Grey was appointed to the

\* Capts. Harvey and Hutt, two gallant and deserving officers, were mortally wounded ; Le Vengeur and Le Jacobin, were both sunk ; and out of the whole crew of the latter, scarcely one man was saved.

command of an expedition against Martinique in the West Indies, and Sir John Jervis (the present Lord St. Vincent) to the direction of the naval operations. After many gallant exploits, the island was reduced: the conquest of St. Lucia \* succeeded that of Martinique.

The English at St. Domingo had so far profited by the convulsed state of that island as to acquire some territorial possessions. The intestine commotions of the colony, induced many planters to solicit the assistance of Great Britain: General Williamson was commissioned to send an armament from Jamaica, to take possession of those settlements, which the people might be disposed to surrender. After a series of desperate conflicts, they subjugated many forts, towns and some small islands, with the sacrifice of an immense number of brave soldiers, who lost their lives more from the unwholesome

\* The English did not long retain St. Lucia. The yellow fever was so prevalent, that it thinned the ranks of our troops, and the French, profiting by the prevalence of the disease, attacked our out-posts, and finally constrained the English to capitulate.

ness of the climate, than by hostile contests: the English prudently gave up all thoughts of further conquest, and abandoned the expedition.

The French Republic were so hostilely engaged in various parts of the world, that they had neither time or opportunity to attend to the purposed dismemberment of Poland.\* The rapacious perfidy of the Russian Empress and her accomplices roused the indignation of the oppressed Poles. They took the field under the command of the gallant Kosciuszko. He repeatedly defeated the Russians, and drove them from his capital with considerable loss. He also attacked the Prussians, and it was with difficulty they repelled his trifling army. In a conflict, however, with the Russians, † this intrepid hero

\* The French Republic were well disposed to the Poles, and wished to have rescued them from the grasp of the Russians and Prussians, but the state of the convulsed country made all interference out of the question.

† Souvoroff, the ferocious Russian Général, after storming the suburbs and city of Praga, ordered, or at least coun-

hero was overpowered, and made prisoner. Warsaw, the Polish capital was reduced, the whole country subjugated, and the two despots, Russia and Prussia, shared the spoils, and in the dismemberment of an unoffending nation ; and Poland ceased to exist as a separate state. Stanislaus, the Prince, supported by a pension from the Empress of Russia, passed the remainder of his life in retirement and obscurity.

The Cabinet of London was more anxious for the preservation of Holland, than solicitous to prevent the dismemberment of Poland ; but their endeavours to save the United States, were as ineffectual, as those were to secure the Netherlands to the Emperor of Germany. After many well-contested skirmishes, and with various success on both sides, the French assailed the whole confederate lines, from Arnheim to Amerongen ; they attacked the Austrians and Hanoverians, and drove them back ; they also obliged General

countenanced the soldiers to perpetrate barbarities and massacres over the unfortunate Poles, similar to those he did at Ismael, in the late war with the Turks.

Aber-

Abercromby (afterwards Sir Ralph) to retire, and by their repeated, and too often successful encounters, enforced the English army to make a hasty \* retreat. Many Hollanders took refuge in England, and upon the submission of Utrecht, the Stadtholder, seeing no prospect but of captivity, left his country, and escaped in a fishing-boat to England. Liberty, equality, and the rights of man were proclaimed, and the United Provinces were revolutionized after the model of the French, and named the Batavian Republic.

The prevalent alarm, which infested this country, when the French insurgents first menaced their sovereign, had not entirely subsided. Many members of these political

\* The Dutch, unfriendly to the English ever since the revolution in 1787, seemed, however, pleased with the present revolution. They contemptuously, nay, inhumanly, treated our soldiers ; especially the wounded and fugitives, who, after a long and painful exercise of their fortitude and patience, at last effected their retreat to Bremen.

societies,



societies, apprehended the last session of Parliament, were now brought to trial. Thomas Hardy was first arraigned. After a trial of eight days he was acquitted, on the insufficiency of evidence. Horne Tooke was next tried. His acquittal was followed by that of Thelwall's.\* The Court, seeing no prospect of substantiating their charges, liberated the rest of the prisoners.

A treaty of commerce was adjusted with the American Republic. Complaints of territorial encroachments, and illegal seizures of shipping and merchandize had been repeatedly urged by the Americans. The precise boundaries were now marked out ; commissioners appointed to decide on disputed captures, and a general trade allowed to the East and West Indies.

\* The principal culprits were, Thomas Hardy, Secretary to the Corresponding Society ; Horne Tooke, Holcroft, Thelwall, the Rev. Mr. Joyce, and a Barrister, named Kyd. Though the evidence was insufficient to condemn them as traitors, yet, had they been indicted for sedition, they would most certainly have been convicted.

A nego-

egotiation, through the medium of an  
 sador, \* took place for a commercial  
 urse with the Chinese. After an in-  
 v with *Chen-Lung*, their aged Emperor,  
 : of jealousy unhappily anticipated any  
 y treaty. After an exchange of pre-  
 it was hinted to some of the suite,  
 heir speedy departure would be agree-

the meeting of Parliament, his Majes-  
 er an allusion to the disappointments  
 last campaign, declared the necessity  
 tinuing the war, as the only means to  
 e a permanent peace. He noticed the  
 decline of the French resources, and  
 stability of the unnatural system pur-  
 by the republican leaders. He depre-  
 an imitation of the submissive example  
 States General, as it would endanger

1 Macartney, late Governor of Madras, a noble-  
 bilities, and of address, was selected for the ne-  
 1. Having added to his suite some men of  
 and some eminent artists, he sailed under the  
 d of Sir Erasmus Gower.

the

the sacrifice of our honor and safety to an enemy, avowedly hostile to these dominions.

The Earl of Guildford, on the motion for the address, opposed it. He maintained that no friend to his country would sanction the continuance of so unjust and impolitic war, and that even were we under the necessity of prolonging it, the management of it ought to be transferred to abler and more experienced ministers. He proposed an amendment, advising his Majesty to expedite the conclusion of a peace on reasonable terms, without regarding the form or nature of the existing government of France. Earl Spencer was not disheartened by the great exertions of the enemy; he firmly relied on the extent of our resources, and disapproved of the idea of negotiation. The Earls of Kinnoul and Morton opposed the negotiation, as degrading and humiliating. The Earl of Derby supported it as necessary, and not dishonorable. The Earl of Mansfield affirmed, that the French resources were greatly on the decline, and that the community were in a state of extreme penury. He hoped that  
our

our exertions might be so invigorated, as to prevent our enemies from a renovation of their strength. Lord Grenville took the same ground as the Earl of Mansfield. The Duke of Bedford approved of the amendment, and condemned the incapacity and inhumanity of the ministers. The amendment was negatived by a majority of 95. In the Commons, Mr. Wilberforce pronounced the address too warlike. He granted, that a peace might not be permanent, but, as the war was more dangerous than that of making peace, he recommended an immediate negociation. Mr. Windham, Secretary of War, reprobated the negociation. Our efforts, he granted, had not been successful; they had been rather negative than positive. But the most alarming circumstance was, that the country was not true to itself, neither was the nation aware of the danger of the republican principles, or of those infectious, those visionary ideas of liberty, so industriously disseminated by Jacobin societies. The leaders of those factions, he acknowledged,

I

ledged, had been acquitted by the verdict of a jury, but he could not consider them as innocent, they were only *absolved felons*. If we should conclude a peace with the French Republic, their emissaries would still be active in propagating their pernicious doctrines, and in undermining our constitution: he therefore recommended a vigorous prosecution of the war. Sir Richard Hill and Mr. Banks, deprecated eternal warfare, into which Mr. Windham seemed inclined to involve us; they therefore voted in favor of pacific measures. Mr. Fox enumerated the miscarriages of the confederate powers; he condemned the conduct of the war, and menaced an enquiry into the measures by which we had been involved in it. On a division there appeared a majority of 173 in favor of the war.

A. D. 1795. The Earl of Stanhope proposed a resolution, disclaiming all interference in the internal affairs of France. Lord Auckland disapproved of the motion. The Earl of Mansfield justified such an extent of inter

interference, as was necessary for our own security. Earl Stanhope's motion was negatived by 61 against one.

Mr. Sheridan moved for the repeal of the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act. Mr. Fox affirmed, that the pretended plots had no existence, but in the imaginations of the deluders, and the fears of the deluded. Mr. Erskine contended, that the late verdicts had not, merely by probable influence, but almost directly disapproved the conspiracy alledged in the charge, and therefore, the pretence for the suspension no longer existed. Serjeant Adair was convinced of the seditious intentions of the societies, and therefore wished for the further continuance of the suspension. The motion was negatived by a great majority, and soon after, a further prolongation was proposed and passed.

A loan of £4,600,000 was voted for the service of the Emperor, to enable him to bring into action 200,000 men. Mr. Fox opposed the measure. He contended, that the failure of the King of Prussia in his engagements, ought to operate as a caution against

against all future subsidies with German Princes. Lord Grenville was so confident on the promised exertions of the Emperor, that he would rather make him a compliment of the money, than lose the chance of the expected benefit. The Marquis of Lansdown was inimical to all German connections. Lord Hawkesbury, Sir William Pulteney, and other members, were more sanguine and confident.

The minister now brought forward his estimates for the supplies of the year. For the army,\* foreign and domestic, he wanted eleven millions, for the navy, four millions and a half, and for other services, as much as swelled the supplies to £27,540,000. A loan of eighteen millions, and three million and half of Exchequer bills, formed part of ways and means. The additional imposts

\* The seamen and marines were 100,000, the land forces 119,360. To procure so large a number of seamen, Parliament enforced the merchants to give up part of their crews, in proportion to their tonnage, and also compelled every parish to furnish one man for the service.

were

were on wine, spirits, tea, and coffee; on agreements; on insurance of ships and cargoes; and a new tax on every head wearing powder. The loan was procured after the rate of *5 per cent.* and in the third year of a war. This circumstance, the minister observed, was an indubitable proof of the flourishing state of our finances and credit. Mr. Fox objected to the terms of the loan, as extravagant both in the whole, and in the mode; and the impost on tea, he said, was an infringement on the commutation tax.

Mr. Wilberforce again introduced his motion for the abolition of the slave trade. Mr. East and Mr. Barham contended, that the abolition would be fatal to the West India planters. But Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox ridiculed such visionary apprehensions, and again reprobated such an inhuman traffic. The bill, however, was thrown out by a majority of 17.

Mr. Fox, after noticing the various errors of administration, and in particular their late treatment of the Irish, proposed an enquiry into their conduct, and that the House



should form a committee to examine the state of the nation. Mr. Sheridan sanctioned the enquiry, as it might lead to a peace. But Mr. Pitt contended, that such an enquiry was impolitic and unnecessary, as the topics, which would result from the enquiry had been already discussed; and impolitic, as it might be productive of unseasonable disclosures. Mr. Pitt replied to the leading points of Mr. Fox's speech, and then moved for an adjournment, which passed by a majority of 156.

The Earl of Guildford made a similar motion in the Lords; he arraigned the misconduct of ministers, and was lavishly severe in his censures. Lord Grenville made a spirited reply to the Earl's illiberal reflections; he justified his own, and the conduct of his associates, and recapitulated the miseries of the French republic. The Duke of Richmond protested against the enquiry, as it would embarrass the executive government, without producing any good effect. The Marquis of Lansdown urged the ill success of the war, as just grounds for enquiry

quiry. On a division, the Earl's motion was lost by a majority of 90.

The long impending trial of Mr. Hastings was now finally concluded. When every part of the accusation had been disallowed by the committee, the report was revised by the House, and after some debates on the mode of proceeding, it was resolved that the question should separately be put on sixteen points. The greatest number of Peers, who voted the defendant guilty in any one respect, did not exceed six. The votes of innocence in some of the charges were twenty-six, in others twenty-three, and in one nineteen. The Chancellor then informed Mr. Hastings of the decision of the Court, who received it in silence, bowed and retired.\*

\* The general voice seemed satisfied with the acquittal. Though Mr. Hastings, on some occasions, had been inattentive to the dictates of virtuous policy, or to the sentiments of humanity, yet he had conducted the affairs of his government with spirit and success; had promoted the interest of the Company, and had extended and secured their dominions.

The adjustment of the affairs of the Prince of Wales became the subject of parliamentary discussion. It may be necessary to inform our readers, that his Royal Highness had contracted a matrimonial alliance with his cousin the Princess Caroline of Brunswick.\* On his marriage, the King his father, addressed his faithful Commons for the grant of a proper establishment for the Prince and his bride. "His Majesty assured the House, that the benefit of an eventual settlement must fail in its most desirable effect, if means should not be provided to extricate his Royal Highness from the incumbrances under which he laboured to a great amount." After several divisions, the House fixed the Prince's allowance at £125,000, † and £65,000 annually to

\* The Duke of York had espoused the daughter of the King of Prussia, the immediate object of his choice. Both connections meet the public approbation.

† Besides this allowed income, Parliament voted £25,000 for the expences attending his marriage; and also £25,000 more for the completion of Carleton-House. The Prince's obligations were £630,000. In the debate

to be appropriated for the liquidation of his debts, besides the rent of the Duchy of Cornwall, upwards of £13,000 a-year.

Warm debates took place in Parliament on the affairs of Ireland. The catholics had flattered themselves with hopes, from the benevolence of their Sovereign and the Parliament, of a grant of further emancipation, not included in the concessions of 1793. Earl Fitzwilliam, on his appointment to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, had countenanced the catholic leaders with promise of support; but the Earl was suddenly recalled, and Earl Camden nominated his successor. Earl Fitzwilliam had been prohibited by the ministry from bringing forward the bill of further relief. The bill, it is true, had been proposed in the Commons, and not unfavourably re-

bate upon the bill of settlement, a question arose, (which remains still undecided) whether the Prince was entitled to the revenue of Cornwall, which had accumulated during his minority. Some members were of opinion, that he had an undoubted right to the accumulations, while others contended, that his father had a right to apply the revenue to the maintenance and education of his son.

ceived.

ceived. The Earl, however, was recalled, and the bill, on Lord Camden's appointment, was thrown out.

The Duke of Norfolk, in the House of Lords, reprobated the dismissal of the noble Earl, and moved for an enquiry into the subject, and Earl Fitzwilliam courted an investigation into his conduct. But the Earl of Caernarvon, and other Peers, opposed the enquiry, as unconstitutional and dangerous. Lord Grenville took no notice of the grounds of recall; he disapproved of the improper interference, which the supporters of the motion recommended. The Duke's motion was lost by a majority of 75.

In the Commons, Mr. Jekyll condemned the duplicity practised upon the Irish; he censured the base attempts to degrade Earl Fitzwilliam, by making him a party to the delusion. Mr. Pitt replied, that the conduct of the Cabinet would bear a strict scrutiny; that no promises had been violated, and no deception attempted; that a difference of opinion in an important case was a sufficient ground for the removal of an officer of state;  
and

and that a free discussion of the topics connected with the recall, might be construed into an encroachment on the independence of the Irish Parliament. Mr. Grey recommended an immediate discussion of the question respecting the catholics, but the majority of the House were not of his opinion ; for 188 opposed the motion, and only 49 assented to it.

The business of the session, now brought to a conclusion, his Majesty prorogued the Parliament. He acknowledged the zealous and uniform regard which both Houses had shewn to the general interests of his people, and the prudent, firm, and spirited support, which they had continued to afford him in the prosecution of the war. It is impossible, continues his Majesty, to contemplate the internal situation of the enemy with whom we are contending, without indulging a hope, that the present circumstances of France may, in their effects, hasten the return of such a state of order and regular government, as may be capable of maintaining the accustomed relations of amity and peace with

with other powers. The issue, however, of these extraordinary transactions, is out of the reach of human foresight.\*

Admiral Cornwallis was cruising near the Penmarks, with eight ships, including frigates, when thirteen French sail of the line, and fourteen frigates, appeared in sight. The large ships came up in succession, and commenced a partial firing upon some of his ships, and especially upon one, which had fallen much to leeward; but even in this ship, though more seriously engaged, not a man was killed. Before sun-set, the firing

\* At the prorogation of Parliament, intelligence arrived of a brilliant victory, gained by Lord Bridport, late Sir Alexander Hood, over a republican squadron. This gallant officer, though of an inferior force, attacked the enemy, and, in all probability, would have captured or destroyed the greatest part of the fleet, had the engagements been more distant from land. But the scene of action lay near port L'Orient, and consequently the enemy was favored by the fortifications of the place. The engagement lasted three hours; three of their ships struck, and were captured in spite of the difficulty of retaining them.

ceased,

ceased, and the dastardly foe tacked, and stood off.\*

Admiral Hotham fell in with a fleet from Toulon, with troops, intended for the recovery of Corsica; he pursued them to the Genoese coast, and after a partial engagement, he captured two sail of the line, but with the loss, soon after, of one of his own ships, from the damage she had sustained in the engagement.

Admiral Hotham, in the succeeding month, a second time engaged the French squadron, and captured a ship of force; but she soon after blew up, and 150 souls perished. After some conquests on both sides,

\* Our fleet, had the enemy been inclined, might easily have been brought to a general action, but, as the French declined the contest, it would have been imprudent in our gallant Admiral to have engaged so superior a force. His brave crew, far from shrinking from their duty, were eager for action, but the Admiral was not so rash as to *let loose their valor*. He prudently judged that the escape was a fair ground of congratulation, rather than the loss of such an opportunity was to be regretted.

the



the French took an English ship of the line, a valuable fleet of 30 sail returning from the Mediterranean, and also part of a Jamaica fleet.

The French republic, though successful on the Continent, were solicitous by negotiation to detach the King of Prussia from the confederacy. Their exertions were not in vain. The Prussian monarch, despairing of the subversion of the French Republic, and elated with his new acquisitions in Poland, seceded from the coalition, and relinquished, by a treaty, his possessions on the left banks of the Rhine; and, by a second treaty, secured peace and neutrality for the North of Germany.

The Spanish Monarch, defeated in repeated conflicts, and menaced not only with the loss of several of his valuable provinces, but also with the propagation of revolutionary doctrines, made his peace with the French republic.\* An expedition, on the coast of  
France,

\* The Spanish Court, to avert the impending storm, and to secure a peace, resigned that part of the island of  
St. Do-

France, planned by the Secretary of War, Mr. Windham, was now executed. The squadron having reached the coast of France, landed the troops on the peninsula, reduced Fort Penthève, and raised entrenchments for their defence. After some unsuccessful conflicts, and unavailing attacks on the redoubts which guarded the passage to the main land, a masked battery threw the assailing corps into confusion, and a precipitate retreat ensued. Many of the French prisoners, who had volunteered in the expedition, deserted the royal cause, and repaired to the Republican standard. To secure a favourable reception, they communicated to the French General such information as was calculated to promote the French interest. General Hoche, their commander, profiting by this information, surprised Fort Penthève in the night, and forced their camp,

St. Domingo, which they had possessed from the time of Columbus. Even the Electorate of Hanover, though still an active member of the coalition, as King of Great Britain, ordered a treaty of peace to be signed with France, as did also the Landgrave of Hesse-Cassel.

though

though not without a gallant resistance. The English brought \* off as many of the fugitives as could reach the vessels. The remainder, about 4000, exposed to imminent danger, sued to capitulate. Hoche granted their boon, with a promise, that they should be treated as prisoners of war, provided the Convention of France shall approve that indulgence. But many of them were afterwards sacrificed as traitors, by the vindictive inhumanity of the Republican Convention.

The Jacobin party, provoked at their exclusion from complete power, raised an insurrection against the Conventional leaders: a host of armed men blockaded the place of meeting, and clamorously demanded bread, and the constitution of the year 1793. They at length gained the hall, and penetrated into the midst of the National Assembly. They murdered one of the deputies, procured decrees favourable to their faction, and were on the eve of gaining their point,

\* About 900 of those who sailed from England, and 1500 of the inhabitants, were the whole number that returned.

when

when a party of soldiers, and a crowd of well-affected citizens interposed and restored tranquillity. A new constitution, more eligible than that of 1793, was prepared, but not adopted without great opposition, and violent debates. By this new code, the executive power was vested in five directors, elected by the legislature; and two councils, one called *The Elders*, the other that of *Five Hundred*, were nominated the representative assemblies of the nation.

It was late in the year before the campaign opened in Germany. Jourdan crossed the Rhine, forced the citidel of Dusseldorf, and reduced the major part of the duchy of Berg. Pichegru passed the same river, near Mannheim, and captured the town. But Jourdan, having crossed the Lagn, was attacked and defeated by the Austrians, with the loss of 4000 men, and obliged to recross the Rhine. The Austrian General Wurmser was beat at Mannheim; but his troops returned to the charge, came off victorious, and retook Mannheim. The French were soon dispossessed of all their conquests in Germany.

Letters of marque were issued against the Dutch by Great Britain, and orders were given to capture all their colonial territories. Admiral Elphinstone was dispatched with a British squadron to the Cape of Good Hope. On his appearance in Simon's Bay, near the Cape, he took possession of all the vessels which were there ; and, after some trifling engagement, the Governor of the Cape proposed a cessation of hostilities, as a prelude to capitulation. The troops were adjudged prisoners of war, and that the property of the Dutch East India Company should be transferred to the captors ; but private property and civil rights were to remain inviolate.

The prospect of subjugating the French Republic, was as remote now, as at the commencement of hostilities. They were in possession of valuable territories, both in Italy and Germany ; were complete masters of the Netherlands, and ruled uncontrolled over the United Provinces. They had also weakened the confederacy by detaching two leading powers from the coalition.

His

His Majesty, in his speech to both houses of Parliament, affirmed, that the prospect resulting from the general state of affairs, had, in some important respects, been materially improved in the course of the year. He was of opinion, that the success of the French, on particular occasions, and the advantages which they had derived from the conclusion of separate treaties with some of the belligerent powers, were far from compensating the evils which they had experienced from the continuance of the war. He noticed the destruction of their commerce, the diminution of their maritime power, and the unparalleled embarrassments and distress of their internal situation ; yet he did not think their rulers were so humbled by the increasing pressure of difficulties, as to be disposed to negotiate for a peace, on just and suitable terms ; it therefore seemed necessary to prosecute the war with the utmost energy and vigor. The speeches for and against the usual address were many, but all unimportant : the address passed by a great majority.

As the King, in his way to and from the House of Peers, had been grossly \* insulted by the populace, both Houses of Parliament expressed their indignation at the outrageous and disloyal behaviour. In consequence, Lord Grenville brought forward a bill for the safety and protection of his Majesty's person and government, against treasonable and seditious practices and attempts.

Violent debates ensued. Lord Grenville contended that the Bill was necessary for the suppression of the reviving spirit of turbulence, and the rapid increase of seditious publications. The provisions of the act, continues his Lordship, were strictly conformable to the principles of the several acts of the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and Charles II. The Earl of Mansfield vindicated the

\* The insolent treatment of his Majesty from the populace, who had the audacity to throw stones at his person, was imputed to the seditious machinations of the leaders of the Corresponding Society ; who, prior to the assembling of Parliament, had harangued, at a numerous meeting in a field near Copenhagen-House, the rabble, in favor of peace.

Bill,

Bill, and dreaded fatal consequences, should it not pass into a law. The Duke of Bedford, the Earls of Lauderdale and Abington, strongly opposed the bill. They contended, that the existing laws were sufficiently strong and severe to discountenance treason and sedition, and that the bill, instead of stifling dissensions, would rather nourish and encourage them. On the division, 80 were in favor of the motion, and only 8 against it.

In the Commons, Messrs. Sheridan, Fox and Erskine were its opponents. They affirmed, that the bill was unjust in principle, and oppressive in detail; that it was repugnant to the constitutional rights of the people, and an incroachment on their freedom. After several divisions, the bill, however, was sanctioned by a majority of 181.

A bill of coercion,\* to restrain popular meetings, was brought forward by Mr. Pitt.

If

\* The principle of this bill imported, that no meeting of any description of persons, exceeding the number of 50, save such as might be summoned by the sheriff or other officers, should be holden for political purposes,



If the prevalent licentiousness of democratic faction should not be checked, the constitution would not long subsist. Mr. Fox was inimical to the bill. He accused Mr. Pitt of an intention of stifling that freedom of debate, which all have a right to claim ; of superseding the bill of rights, and subjecting the people to the yoke of despotism. Mr. Halhed, Mr. Curwen, and Mr. Sheridan, spoke against the bill. Mr. Wilberforce and Mr. Windham approved of it, as it tended, without the exercise of despotic measures, to suppress unconstitutional reforms, and support the constitution against the attacks of jacobins and traitors. On a division, 214 approved of the bill, and 42 opposed it ; leaving a majority of 172.

unless public notice should have been given by seven housekeepers. That, if such a body should assemble without notice, and 12 or more individuals should continue together, even quietly, for one hour after legal notice for their departure, they should be punished as felons, without benefit of clergy, and that the same rigor might be exercised, if any person should, after due notice, use seditious language, or propose the irregular alteration of any thing by law established.

In

In the House of Lords, it was opposed by the Duke of Bedford and Marquis of Lansdown, by the Earls of Moira, Derby, and Lauderdale, but the bill finally passed. During the debates of Parliament on these two bills, both Houses received a message from his Majesty, holding out a prospect of peace, He said, "that such an order of things had arisen, (alluding to the new republican constitution, and the dictatorial government of France,) as would induce him to meet any desire of negotiation on the part of the enemy, with a full readiness to give it effect." On the address of thanks for this communication Mr. Sheridan suggested that an immediate negotiation should take place; and by a renunciation of the principles on which the war had been conducted, remove all obstacles to the attainment of peace. Mr. Grey coincided with Mr. Sheridan. He made a motion, that his Majesty be requested to intimate to the executive government of France, his readiness to enter into a negotiation for the re-establishment of peace, on

reasonable terms. Mr. Pitt wished that this affair should be left to the discretion of the ministry, as he said, that it was proper to consult the allies of Great Britain, as a close concert with them would give greater dignity and effect to a negotiation. Steps had been already taken to sound the disposition of the enemy; and, that if there should be a prospect of an honourable peace, the opportunity would be embraced with pleasure. Mr. Grey's motion was supported by only 50 members, while 189 voted against it.

A. D. 1796. The great increase of barracks became the subject of parliamentary investigation. Mr. Fox was of opinion, that the freedom of the constitution in a great measure rested on the friendly intercourse between citizens and soldiers, and that the separation of the two classes would render the latter too subservient to the crown. Mr. Pitt replied, that soldiers were more usefully and conveniently, as well as more cheaply quartered in barracks than in public-houses.

General

General Smith inferred, from this unconstitutional system, that the ministry encouraged despotic intentions.

During these parliamentary contentions, the unsuccessful application for peace excited general animadversion. A general negotiation had been proposed by Mr. Wickham, our plenipotentiary in Switzerland, to M. Barthelemi, the French ambassador to the Cantons. But the Executive Directory, aware that the restitution of the Netherlands was a primary condition of an eventual congress, declined the proposal, so that "nothing was left for the King but to prosecute a war, equally just and necessary."

To invigorate a continuation of hostilities, which the arrogance and obstinacy of the French compelled us to continue, a new loan was negotiated. Upwards of twenty-seven millions and a half had been already voted, and a loan of eighteen millions constituted a part of the ways and means. The supply was increased £37,588,000, and to complete the new demand, seven millions and a half were borrowed. The colonial forces were

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augmented to 77,000 men ; the guards and garrisons reduced to 49,000 men, and the sailors and marines increased to 110,000; additional imposts on wine, tobacco, salt, sugar, on horses and dogs ; also a new duty on hats, on legacies to collateral relatives; and all who were liable to the assessed taxes were subject to pay 10 *per cent.* extra. These heavy imposts were not voted without opposition, but finally sanctioned by a great majority.

Mr. Grey proposed a string of resolutions replete with such charges as he thought would justify an impeachment of the minister. He asserted, that the provisions of the act of appropriation had repeatedly been violated ; that the statute for the regulation of the office of paymaster to the army had also been infringed ; that false accounts had been laid before the House, and that other malpractices had marked the ministerial proceedings. The minister candidly confessed that some irregularities had occurred, but declared that nothing criminal had been fully committed, and a regard to the public service

services, and an attention to duty, had formed the chief features of official management. On the motion for the previous question, 209 votes against 38 appeared in favour of the minister. Mr. Fox also moved for a change of measures. After an elaborate harangue, he reprobated the fatal precipitancy, which had plunged the nation into the war, and the incapacity, so visible in the management of it. He deprecated the answer given to Barthelemi, and attributed the failure of peace solely to our *hauteur de-meur*. Mr. Pitt vindicated the justice of the war; he defended the judgment and spirit of the measures, and imputed the failure of peace solely to the restless ambition of the French Republic. Mr. Fox's motion was lost by a majority of 174.

His Majesty, after thanking Parliament for their sedulous attention for the welfare of the nation, dissolved the Parliament, and writs were soon after issued for a new election.

In the West Indies, British valor was eminently successful. They captured St. Lucia, Port-

Port-Royal, and St. Vincent. The Dutch settlements of Demerara and Essequibo, in South America ; and also the colony of Berbice was reduced.

In the East, Columbo, the capital of the Isle of Ceylon, surrendered, as did also, by capitulation, the valuable islands of Amboyna and Banda. The Dutch were not more fortunate in their attempts for the recovery of the Cape of Good Hope. Anxious to gain so valuable a settlement, they had detached a squadron with troops on board. They reached their destination unmolested. Sir George Elphinston pursued them, and anchored within shot of the enemy, and demanded the surrender of the fleet. The Dutch Admiral, Lucas, unable to resist so formidable a force, delivered up his own ship, of 66 guns, two other ships of the line, four frigates, a sloop, and a store-ship.

In the Mediterranean, the English evacuated Corsica ; which, from the intrigues of the French, Sir Gilbert Elliot, the Viceroy found it impossible any longer to retain. During the vigorous and successful exertion

of General Hoche against the royalists of La Vendée, whose chiefs, Stofflet and Charette, suffered as rebels, Napoleon Bonaparte, a Corsican of intrepid courage and boundless ambition, alarmed the Italian States, and diffused the terror of the French arms. He routed, by the aid of Berthier and Massena, the Austrians at Montenottè. He also engaged them a second and a third time, with similar success. He reduced Mondovi and other towns; and to procure a cessation of hostilities, he obliged the King of Sardinia to cede some of his principal fortresses. A peace was soon after concluded, with the loss of Savoy and Nice.\* The King of Naples,

\* The King of Sardinia did not long survive the treaty. He died in the 70th year of his age, and was succeeded by his son Charles Emanuel. About the same time also, died Catherine, Empress of Russia. She was a princess of great talents, of high spirit, and masculine fortitude. Disdaining a subordinate situation, she aspired to be supreme over a country, of which she was not a native, and to a sovereignty to which she had not the least shadow of pretensions. The act by which she obtained the throne deserves the severest censure. She, however, enacted salutary



ples, and the Dukes of Parma and Modena, also purchased treaties of pacification.

Bonaparte engaged General Beaulieu, at Lodi, but he met with so vigorous a resistance, and so tremendous a fire, that victory seemed long doubtful: at length, the bridge was forced, and the French triumphed. Bonaparte, by this victory, gained possession of the major part of the Milanese, and even menaced the territories of the Pope. He, however, indulged his holiness with a truce, and then proceeded to cover the siege of Mantua.

General Wurmser gained some advantages over his troops, and compelled him to raise the siege; but he soon retaliated, and, after

tary laws, promoted the improvement of the country, fostered the arts and sciences, and was ever a friend to genius. In ordinary cases she seemed to possess some moderation, and some traits of humanity, but, where her ambition was concerned, she was depotic and cruel, and would shed torrents of blood without pity and without regret. Her thirst of amorous gratification was as boundless as her lust of power; but not so fatal to society, or to the tranquillity of the nation.

repeated

peated conflicts, obliged Wurmsur to retire within the fortifications of Mantua.

The campaign in Germany was opened on the part of the French, by the successful battle of Altenkirchen. The republicans, proceeding to the Mayne, reduced Franckfort, Wurtzburgh, and other considerable towns: but, in the autumn, they were defeated in several actions, and obliged precipitately to cross the Rhine.

In the Upper Rhine, Moreau forced the port of Kehl, routed the Austrians, both at Renchen and Rastatt, and obliged the Duke of Wirtemberg to abandon the confederacy, and to sue for peace, which was granted. He also penetrated to the Bavarian capital, and levied heavy contributions from the Elector, and forced him into a treaty. Finding that the Emperor of Germany had augmented his forces, he commenced a retreat, which he executed in so masterly a manner, that he surmounted every obstacle, and continued his perilous march from the Lech to the Rhine, to the admiration of his astonished adversaries, and even of all Europe.

His

His Majesty, agreeable to his speech from the throne, renewed his application for pacific overtures. The Directory, after various subterfuges, agreed to the proposal, but, at the same time, did not neglect the means of hostility, as preparations were ordered for a descent on the coast of Ireland.

His Majesty's speech was rather warlike than conciliatory: "He was sensible that nothing could so much contribute to give effect to a general peace, as a manifestation of the spirit and resources of the country. It cannot be doubted what would be the result of such an enterprise, (alluding to the threatened invasion) but it befits your wisdom to neglect no precaution that may either preclude the attempt, or secure the speediest means of turning it to the confusion and ruin of the enemy. Some of the events of the year, he thought were highly favourable to Great Britain; and, though at one time, all Europe seemed to be endangered, the final result of the campaign might prove highly disastrous to the French."

Earl Bathurst proposed an address. It was  
opposed

opposed by Earl Fitzwilliam, but finally sanctioned by a great majority. Mr. Fox assented to the address, though he did not approve of every part of it. If the disposition of the ministers were sufficiently conciliatory, and not too high-toned in their terms, he hoped the negotiation would be satisfactory. Mr. Pitt answered, that if the negotiation should not be productive of a speedy peace, one benefit would result from it : if the French should refuse to accede to reasonable terms, they would expose to the world the dangerous excess of their ambition, and their arrogance and injustice would arouse general resentment, and call forth the unanimous zeal and collected energy of the nation. The address was then voted without a division.

Warm and animated debates took place in the Commons on the conduct of the minister, for sending money to the Emperor without the consent of Parliament. Sir William Pulteney, Mr. Grey, and Mr. Fox, severely censured this violation of its privileges, as it had been committed even while the two

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Houses

Houses were sitting. Mr. Pitt, in his defence, urged, that similar practices had been adopted by the most patriotic ministers. He referred to the expediency of discretionary powers, and to the advantage which the common cause *had* received from the seasonable supply. He added, that the sum allowed by the vote of credit was applicable to any expence connected with the public service. Some few members spoke in support of the motion, but a majority of 204 favoured Mr. Pitt; the numbers being 285 to 81.

While preparations were making in Britain for vigorous hostility, Lord Malmesbury was employed in pacific negotiations at Paris. His Lordship proposed, that a general principle should be established, as the basis \* of  
definitive

\* The principles of the basis purported, that compensation should be made to France by proportional restitutions of conquest for those arrangements to which she be might desired to consent, in order to satisfy the just pretensions of the allies of Great Britain, and to preserve the political balance of Europe. In conformity with this principle, Lord Malmesbury required, that the Emperor should

definitive treaty; but it was long evaded by M. De la Croix, his diplomatic adversary; and when the Directory did assent to the proposition, there was no intention of fulfilling the promise. After a long and repeated conference, Lord Malmesbury received a note, requiring the delivery of an *ultimatum* within twenty-four hours. His Lordship remonstrated against this arbitrary preclusion of deliberate negotiation, and requested that the proposals of both parties might be candidly considered, and mutually discussed. But an order for his departure from Paris in two days, and also for a speedy retreat from the French territories, with a determined refusal

should be re-instated in the full possession of his dominions; that peace should be settled with the Germanic body, on a basis which might neither injure or weaken the general safety of Europe; that the *status ante bellum* should, as far as practicability would allow, take place in Italy; and that Russia and Portugal, if so inclined, should enjoy the benefit of the negotiation. On these conditions his Britannic Majesty promised to restore all the territories which his armaments had taken from the French since the commencement of the war.

against the restitution of conquests, was the final result of the negotiation.

This peremptory and insolent dismissal of Lord Malmesbury produced a message to both Houses. His Majesty complained of the unjust and exorbitant views of the French Republic, and also a declaration, recapitulating the progress of the diplomatic intercourse, and imputing the failure of success to the arbitrary and encroaching spirit of the enemy.

Lord Grenville reviewed the negotiation, and moved that the Peers should engage to support his Majesty with the utmost vigor in the prosecution of a contest, which the French would not suffer to be terminated. The Earl of Guildford proposed an amendment. He disputed the sincerity of ministers, and censured them for having neglected the opportunity of pacification, which the success of the confederate powers had happily presented to them in 1793. Some few Peers approved of the amendment, but the ministerial motion was sanctioned by a majority of 80.

In

In the Commons, Mr. Pitt ably discussed the negotiation, and severely reprobated the conduct of the French. Mr. Fox arraigned the terms offered to the Directory, as inadequate to the demands which the French Republic had a right to expect. He decidedly asserted, that peace and the continuation of the present administration were incompatible; he therefore moved an amendment similar to Earl Guildford's in the Lords. Mr. Dundas, the present Viscount Melville, reprobated the doctrines of Mr. Fox as favoring the views of the Executive Directory; and, he trusted, that the majority of the House would evince a greater share of patriotism. The address was sanctioned by 212 votes, while the feeble suffrages of the minority were only 37.

Application had been made to the Directory of France by the Republican Society of United Irishmen, representing the probability of a general insurrection, provided the French would make an invasion on their coast. The intelligence was attended to. Seventeen sail of the line, and several frigates, with



upwards of eighteen thousand troops, under the command of Hoche, sailed from France in the depth of winter. Part of the fleet cast anchor in Bantry Bay, where they lay some days without attempting to land. After waiting in vain for the rest of the armament, they sailed. Soon after, the remainder made their appearance, but stormy and tempestuous weather defeated their hostile intentions. The English captured one frigate, and two of their fleet foundered. One ship of the line was lost, and one running on shore, was destroyed.\*

A. D. 1797. The frequent pecuniary remittances to our allies, and the demand of cash to secure them, had greatly diminished the circulation of coin. After frequent consultations with the Directors of the Bank,

\* They soon after made another attempt on Wales. About 1250 men landed in the county of Pembroke, and, as the ships sailed immediately after their disembarkation, they were left unprotected, and readily submitted to a demand of Lord Cawdor's for their surrender. Two out of the four vessels, were soon after captured by our cruizers.

ministers

ministers discussed the affair in council. The result produced an order against the issue of cash from the Bank.

When the order became the subject of parliamentary debate, Mr. Pitt recommended the appointment of a secret committee to investigate the outstanding engagements, and the means of answering them.

Mr. Fox lamented the embarrassments, into which the misconduct of ministers had involved the country. He deprecated the order of council as unconstitutional, and advised a public investigation into the affairs of the Bank. On Lord Grenville's motion in the Lords, the Dukes of Norfolk and Grafton preferred an open, rather than a secret committee; but the majority of Lords thought otherwise. They contended, in so delicate and critical an affair, that the utmost secrecy ought to be observed. On the report of the committee,\* an act passed confirming

\* The funds of the Bank of England, from the favorable report of the committee, applicable to the discharge

When the prevailing influence of the French Republic had produced a peace with

age, and to improve mankind, in the service of a party, which has added but little to his fortune, and narrowed the limits of his fame. But ambition cheated him into the desire of greatness, and instead of passing his days in *academic bowers*, where his genius would have found an home, and his fame have flourished without a withering leaf, he engaged with all the fervor of his mind, in the political contests of the times, and has dissipated his energies, his eloquence, and his knowledge, in support of a faction, which has rewarded his zeal with little more than the interrupted *hear-him's* of parliamentary applauders. His eloquence was rapid, animated, and highly adorned; but it amuses rather than instructs, and by its brilliance, weakens the attention which it so strongly solicits. Even Mr. Burke's best friends acknowledge, that his judgment never kept pace with his other faculties; and, as he advanced in years, his increasing irritability of temper tended rather to diminish the little stock he enjoyed of that precious quality of the mind. Mr. Burke possessed a much larger portion of integrity than any of his active political associates, and I am of opinion, that his rigid love of what he thought to be right, caused him frequently to do and say things, which, in the opinion of his friends, were extremely wrong. Mr. Burke, in his heart, was a Tory, even when he affected, during the American war, to be a strenuous Whig.

Spain,

Spain, it was expected that the artful republicans would prevail with the Spanish Prince to commence hostilities against Great Britain. But this, however, did not immediately ensue, as the Spaniards were reluctant to go to war with their late ally; but they at length did agree to a treaty of confederacy, and on some vague and frivolous pretence, declared war against Great Britain.

Preparations, both naval and military, were rapidly forwarded. The Spaniards menaced the Portuguese territories; they also equipped a powerful fleet, and joined a French armament. Sir John Jervis descried this fleet to the S.W. of Cape St. Vincent; and though he had only fifteen sail of the line, and the enemy 27 sail of the line, he determined to risk an engagement. He happily came up with them before a regular line was formed, and by a dexterous manœuvre, separated one third from the main body. The gallant Nelson and Troubridge eminently distinguished themselves in this glorious conflict. They engaged, for some time, six ships of the line, but the Blenheim seasonably

ably coming up, and the exertions of Captain Collingwood, in the *Excellent*, in all probability saved them from being captured. Commodore Nelson, when his ship was disabled, prepared to board the *San Nicolas*; and his orders were executed with promptitude and alacrity. The marines forced the cabin-door, and rushing upon the quarter-deck, he found Captain Barry nearly master of the ship. As soon as he had subdued the *San Nicolas*, he proceeded to board the *San Joseph*; and the intrepid Nelson received the swords of the two captured Spanish officers. Other ships, besides these we have noticed, had a share in this partial conflict. Four of the enemy's ships, from 74 to 112 guns, became prizes, and in the captured vessels, upwards of 600 suffered. Our loss was 90 killed, and 227 wounded.\*

A British armament, nearly about the same time, made its appearance at Trinidad, a

\* The victorious Admiral was honored with general applause. He was advanced to the peerage with a title drawn from *Cape St. Vincent*, the scene of triumph.

valuable island south of Tobago. Four Spanish ships of the line, and a frigate, apparently ready for sea, were seen in the Bay. Dispositions were immediately taken to prevent their escape. In the early part of the night, one vessel was observed to be on fire; soon after, others shared the same fate, while one, of 74 guns, was captured by the English. The troops under the command of Sir Ralph Abercromby landed without opposition, and the Governor tamely resigned the whole island.

The sailors, sensible of their importance, had made application to Admiral Lord Howe for an advance of wages, proportioned to the advance of the articles they were obliged to purchase, but also an enlargement of the quantity, and an improvement in the quality of their provisions. Their application not being attended to, they determined to enforce redress by a spirited resistance. The crew of the Queen Charlotte, and other ships at Spithead, when ordered to prepare for sea, refused to act; they treated with contempt the remonstrances of the officers, and pro-

ceeded to select delegates, who, after a formal consultation, drew up a petition to the House of Commons, and to the Lords of the Admiralty. Earl Spencer, the naval premier, alarmed at so dangerous a mutiny, and, not thinking their demands unreasonable, granted their boon; and his Majesty cheerfully promised full pardon to all, who should immediately return to their duty. But the seamen were not satisfied, till Parliament had sanctioned the promises of the Lords of the Admiralty. This confirmation required time; the irritation of the mutineers led to a contest with Admiral Colpoys, in which some lives were lost. A bill, however, passed agreeable to their wishes, and subordination restored at Plymouth and Spithead.

These concessions encouraged the sailors at the *Nore* to demand *a greater freedom of absence from ships in harbour, a more punctual discharge of arrears, a more just distribution of prize-money, and a relaxation of the rigors of discipline.* Richard Parker, late President of the Council of Delegates, a man  
of

of a daring spirit, was the most active promoter of these demands. Having received an unfavorable answer from the Admiralty, through the medium of Admiral Buckner, he boldly superseded that Admiral, and the rest of the officers; and deported himself with the most insolent arrogance. He insisted on the personal attendance of some of the Lords of the Admiralty at Sheerness, and also on their compliance to the new demands. He prevailed upon the crews to reject the repeated offers of pardon; he plundered two merchant-men of their provisions, and obstructed trade by the detention of others. He even had the audacity to fire on some men of war, who refused to join the seditious combination.

The two Houses of Parliament were solicited to interfere on this alarming occasion. They accordingly passed two bills: the first made it death to hold communication, or intercourse, with the crew of ships declared to be in a state of rebellion, as well as on all who, after such declaration, should voluntarily continue on board; the other bill was  
equally



equally severe against all attempts to seduce seamen or soldiers into mutinous practices.

These acts, seconded by the strong disapprobation of the public in general, against the mutineers at the Nore, hastened the suppression of the disturbances. The hopes of pardon, and a returning sense of loyalty, produced a separation of some of the ships, though not without the violence of a contest; and the mutiny gradually subsided. Parker \* was tried by a Court Martial, he was condemned and hanged at the yard-arm, on board the Sandwich man of war, the chief scene of his power. Seven others suffered, and at different times, the same fate attended others. Some were flogged, but a far greater number of those who were condemned, were pardoned.

\* Parker, when the crew of the Sandwich ceased to support him, made no resistance; he requested that none of his accomplices might suffer, but such lenity might have been fatal to the discipline of the navy. The revolutionary principles of the French Republic had some effect in producing these alarming disturbances, and they exulted in the intelligence.

The

The crews of Lord St. Vincent's fleet were not infected with the mutinous spirit. After the defeat of the Spanish armament, they blocked up Cadiz, captured several of their straggling ships, while the gallant Nelson repelled a powerful flotilla, and bombarded the town. The Earl detached the Admiral to Teneriffe, where he superintended a nocturnal attack upon Santa Cruz. He stormed the Mole, but failed in his attempts on the fort. The intimidated Governor, however, granted him a safe retreat. Capt. Bowen was drowned in this bold enterprize, as were also upwards of 100 seamen and sailors. The brave admiral lost an arm and 150 men in the assault.

Though Lord St. Vincent had discomfited the maritime machinations of the French Republic, they were amply compensated by their continental conquests. Bonaparte, in the early part of January, defeated the Austrians in the Veronese. Mantua, after a tedious and sanguinary siege, surrendered, and he proceeded to the dominions of the

**Pope.** He subjugated all the inhabitants that lay in his rout, and obliged his Holiness to advance him a considerable sum of money, besides many valuable pictures, statues, manuscripts, and also to cede Ferrara, and other provinces, for permission to retain the remainder of his territories. Bonaparte now advanced to meet Archduke Charles, who had assumed the command of the Austrian army in Italy.

The French rapidly advanced into the Austrian hereditary territories; they made easy conquests of Garitz, Gradisca, and Trieste. They proceeded to Corinthia, where Massena defeated Prince Charles at Jarvis, and Joubert was not inactive in the Tyrol. They reduced Faubach, the metropolis of Carniola; they also threatened the province of Styria, and the whole Germanic empire trembled to its centre. Bonaparte, affecting an appearance of amity and humanity, condescended to tender overtures of accommodation to the Archduke. The Emperor agreed to an armistice, and preliminaries were  
signed

signed on the 15th of April, without even the consent or knowledge of the British cabinet.

The Venetian government, long the boast of Italy, having taken a decided part with the Austrians, was easily subverted and revolutionized. The Genoese shared the same fate, and the Cisalpine Republic, erected on the conquest of the Duchy of Milan, was enlarged and strengthened.

The British ministry, agreeable to the prevalent wishes of the nation, again offered to negotiate, and Lord Malmesbury and Le Tourney met at Lisle. His Lordship demanded the cession of the Cape of Good Hope, the island of Trinidad, Ceylon, and the settlement of Cochin, in lieu of the territories which were to be restored to the French; but the republican minister peremptorily urged a dereliction of all our conquests, besides a reserve of requisition; and, on his Lordship's positive refusal, he was again dismissed.\*

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\* Notwithstanding the apparent disagreement, a treaty might have been concluded by mutual concessions, if the

A declaration from his Majesty announced the failure of the late negotiation, and also new proofs of the hostile spirit of the rulers of the French Republic. "He asserted his eager desire of terminating a war so destructive in its progress, and so burthensome in its success: and, though his claims had been strenthened and confirmed by recent \* success,

Director Barras, with the assistance of Reubel, and La Revellere Lepaux, had not so far influenced the major part of the legislature, as to enforce the banishment of a great number of the National Representatives.

\* The success alluded to by his Majesty, was Admiral Duncan's memorable victory over the Dutch. They had been blocked up all the summer in the Texel. Taking the advantage, however, of Admiral Duncan's absence, De Winter sailed to reinforce the French fleet, and hoped to elude the vigilance of the English; but Capt. Trollope, left on purpose to watch their motions, made signals, which were happily observed by the Admiral, who immediately ordered a general chase. De Winter, finding an engagement inevitable with honor and safety, formed a line between Camperdown and Egmont. The British Admiral, sensible of the advantage of getting between the Dutch ships and the shore, made signals for bearing up, breaking the enemy's line, and engaging

cess, he was yet ready, if the calamities of war would then be closed, to conclude peace on the same moderate and equitable principles and terms, which he had before proposed."

Soon after this signal victory of Admiral Duncan's, a definitive treaty between the Em-

engaging them to leeward. Admiral Onslow's division first commenced the attack, and both parties fought with great bravery. Admiral Duncan soon passed the line, and was closely engaged for two hours. *De Winter*, after the loss of 250 of his crew, his ship dismasted and disabled, surrendered. The Dutch Vice-Admiral, *Rayntes*, was wounded, and obliged to strike his flag to Admiral Onslow. One of the Dutch ships took fire, but the flames were happily extinguished, and she was captured. Six other ships of the line and two frigates were taken. *De Winter* had twenty-one sail of the line, and Admiral Duncan only sixteen. The death of Capt. *Burges* of the *Ardent*, a gallant and deserving officer, was particularly regretted.

His Majesty, in consideration of this, and other signal naval victories, ordered a general thanksgiving. The King, accompanied by both houses of Parliament, repaired, on the 19th of December, to St. Paul's, in solemn procession; and the colors, taken from the vanquished fleets, were carried before their Sovereign by his gallant seamen.

peror of Germany and the French Republic, was signed at Campo-Formio. France gained the Netherlands, the Venetian Islands in the Levant, and the territories in Albania. The Emperor reserved the city of Venice and the principalities of that state, but he renounced all right to the Milanese, and acknowledged the independence of the Cisalpine Republic. A part of Bavaria was annexed to the Austrian territories, and the left bank of the Rhine was fixed as a boundary to France. The states, injured by these abridgments, were to be indemnified by the grant of other territories within the empire.

The French Directory, their armies unemployed, declared their intention of attempting a descent on the British coast. Formidable preparations, as if such an intention really prevailed, though it has turned out to be a mere bravado, took place in the ports of Holland, Flanders, and France. During these gasconading menaces, the British Parliament re-assembled. His Majesty, in his speech, "attributed the failure of the negotiations to the evasive conduct, the unwarrantable

warrantable pretensions, and the inordinate ambition of the French Republic; and, in particular, to their inveterate animosity against these kingdoms. His Majesty, being compelled to persevere in hostilities, had the satisfaction of knowing that the country possessed means and resources proportioned to the nature and demands of the contest. The state of the war (continued his Majesty) would admit some diminution of charges, but a heavy expence was still unavoidable; and the true value of any temporary sacrifices could only be estimated by comparing them with the importance of effectually supporting public credit, and convincing the foe of the continued spirit and undiminished power of the nation."

In the debates on the address, the Marquis of Lansdown contended, that he saw no remedy for national evils, but a change of men and measures. Earl Fitzwilliam was inimical to all interference with the French Republic, but that of hostility. Lord Mulgrave approved of the conduct and system of administration. Mr. Nicholl dreaded the



consequences of a protracted war, while Sir William Young sanctioned a vigorous prosecution of it.\*

After the papers, relative to the conference, had been investigated by both Houses, Lord Grenville proposed a vote of address, sanctioning the conduct of their Sovereign, and criminating that of the enemy. The address was assented to by both Houses, and it passed without a division.

Mr. Pitt now brought forward his scheme of a new and general tax, which would greatly diminish the amount of that loan, which otherwise would be requisite. The exigencies of the state for the ensuing year amounted to twenty millions and a half. He proposed a loan of twelve millions, seven of which should be paid within the year, as a fresh tax. This impost was to be regulated by the assessed taxes of the present

\* The Duke of Bedford, Mr. Fox, and some other senators, had discontinued parliamentary attendance, alleging the inutility of contending against such formidable majorities.

year. Those charged for horses, dogs, carriages, and male servants, besides houses and windows, would be liable to a treble assessment, in addition to what they at present paid, provided the old duty did not exceed £25. Those of smaller income would be less burdened. Tradesmen would be particularly favored, and some would not pay more than the 120th part of their income. This onerous act did not pass without opposition. It was censured by some senators as severely oppressive, and unequal in its provisions. By others it was hailed, as a judicious and serviceable measure. Few of the Peers opposed the bill, and it soon passed both Houses. The *Habeas Corpus* bill was again suspended.

A. D. 1798. The supplies to answer the demand of different services, were now increased to £28,490,000, and finally, they arose to £35,000,000. An additional duty was imposed on tea and salt, a new tax on armorial bearings, and on various articles under the head of customs.

Mr. Pitt, to strengthen the public credit,  
and

and reduce the funded capital, brought in a bill for the redemption of the land-tax. From this plan he proposed that the individual should derive the benefit of landed security; and, besides a saving of £400,000 per annum to the state, a great relief would arise to the funds. A bill also passed for the more effectual manning of the navy; \* another enabled the King to accept the services of such of the militia-men as might be willing to assist in restoring the tranquillity of Ireland; and also a bill to check the licentiousness of writers in newspapers, by securing responsibility. Many individuals, during this session, were taken into custody, and lodged in different prisons, on suspicion of being disaffected to government. James O'Coigly, an Irish catholic, with four others,† were

\* In discussing this bill, Mr. Pitt threw out some unguarded expressions, which produced a challenge from Mr. Tierney. They both fired, but neither party was wounded.

† Arthur O'Connor, of notorious memory, was one that was tried. Though many British senators appeared in

were tried at Maidstone, on the charge of having attempted to pass over to France with traitorous intention ; but they were all acquitted, save O'Coigly, who was convicted and suffered death.

Repeated, though unavailing attempts were made in both Houses to effect an enquiry into the affairs of Ireland. The minority contended, that the disturbances in that country originated in the improper conduct of ministers, and, that their reluctance to an investigation, argued a consciousness of their demerits.

The united Irishmen still continued their intrigues. Their views, however, were counteracted by the vigilance of government and by the enactment of rigorous laws. After the unsuccessful expedition of Hoche's, the insurgents were flattered with hopes of an armament from Holland, and some regiments

in his behalf, and boldly asserted his innocence and honor, yet his criminality has since been sufficiently proved ; as, at the present moment, this disaffected Hibernian holds a commission in the French service.

were

were actually embarked, but, from the dread of a British fleet, they were hastily put on shore.

Lord Edward Fitzgerald,\* Emmet, M'Nevin, and others of their leaders, were apprehended at Dublin; and this, with other strong measures of government, hastened the explosion of their rebellious intention. Some disaffected subjects, who had entered into the society with traitorous intention, intimated to the Lord Lieutenant, the intention of a general insurrection. This seasonable communication saved the capital from imminent danger.†

### Three

\* Lord Edward Fitzgerald escaped, but he was afterwards discovered, and, making a desperate resistance, was mortally wounded.

† In some parts of the kingdom, rebellion, with all its sanguinary havock, displayed its horrid features. A party of catholics, armed with pikes, surprised and massacred many peaceful inhabitants of a town named Prosperous. They also attacked Naas; but were repulsed with the loss of upwards of 100 of their followers. A more decisive action took place near Dunlavin, where their loss exceeded

Three French frigates, on the eve of the expiring rebellion, appeared in the Bay of Killalla, having 1000 troops on board, under command of Humbert, formerly a private, but now a field officer. This handful of men alarmed the whole country. Humbert, profiting by the consternation, and the \* exaggerated

exceeded 300. A conflict on the hill of Taragh proved fatal to 350 of the insurgents, and also to 400 at Catherlow.

The catholics of Wexford, headed by a priest, commenced hostilities, and successfully attacked Enniscorthy. Wexford, weakly garrisoned, and even many of the inhabitants disaffected, was evacuated by our troops. After repeated conflicts, a numerous party of the rebels attacked Ross, and were expelled with the loss of 1500 of their men, and 250 of our men were either killed, wounded, or lost. A most atrocious massacre was committed by some fugitive rebel ruffians. They inhumanly butchered upward of 200 protestants, confined at Scillabogue. The town of Arklow was vigorously contested, but the rebels were finally routed. The Durham Fencibles, by their courage and firmness, acquired no inconsiderable credit in these conflicts.

\* Vinegar-hill was the principal scene of their vindictive barbarities. It was forced, however, by General Vane,

aggregated report of his force, marched to Castlebar, where he successfully engaged General Lake.\* Flushed with success, he proceeded to Sligo, and routed a detachment near Colloony.

The Marquis of Cornwallis was advancing with a considerable force, while General Lake took another rout to intercept the invaders. A part of his troops overtaking the rear-guard of the French at Ballimanuck, an engagement ensued, and 200 of them threw down their

Lake, but by far the greater part of the rebels escaped by flight. On the approach of the royal army, the rebels evacuated Wexford, after having sacrificed many of the friends of government. A rapid dispersion took place, yet outrage and violence were not wholly subsided. On the appointment of the Marquis of Cornwallis, as Lord Camden's successor, the rebellion considerably subsided. After the apprehension of Harvey and Colclough, in a cave, in one of the Saltee Islands, and of other principals in the rebellion, a proclamation of pardon was issued; and though it made some exceptions, promoted the restoration of tranquillity. Harvey and Colclough were executed.

\* Several, whose duty it was to make a resolute opposition, took an opportunity to desert.

arms.

arms. The appearance of the remainder of the army, intimidated the French into an unconditional surrender. The Irish rebels fled in all directions, and severely suffered in their precipitate retreat. Only three British soldiers were killed, and a very few wounded.\*

The boundless rage for dominion, urged the French Republic to violate their agreement with the Pope, † and to erect the episcopal territories into a dependent commonwealth. They curtailed the privileges of their Batavian allies into a state of more implicit submission, than at their first commencement of democratic fraternity. They also subjugated, after a fruitless resistance, the Cantons of Switzerland.

\* Sir John Borlase Warren happily defeated a second hostile armament intended for Ireland. He captured one ship of the line and six frigates; having on board a formidable re-inforcement, and great quantities of stores. *Wolfe Tone*, a principal of the seditious society, was taken with the French, and condemned by a court-martial, but avoided, by suicide, an ignominious death.

† The deposed Pontiff, banished from his country, died a prisoner in France.

An



An expedition, under the command of Major-General Coote, took place in the Netherlands. He landed with an inconsiderable armament near Ostend, and prepared to destroy the sluices of the Bruges canal. He executed his commission with small loss; but, as the wind and surf prevented the re-embarkation of the troops, they were necessitated to form a defensive post on the sand hills. They were soon attacked by a superior force, and though they defended themselves with unparalleled bravery, their front was broken, and their flanks were completely turned. Thus, perilously circumstanced, General Coote, who was wounded, called General Burrard to a consultation, and a general surrender was agreed upon. Our loss did not exceed 50, but 1100 were made captives.

The Republican Directory, anxious to colonise Egypt, equipped an armament of 13 ships of the line, many frigates, sloops and transports, crowded with troops, under the command of Bonaparte. The importance of the Isle of Malta urged this enterprising General

neral to attempt its reduction. He procured either by the pusillanimity or the treachery of a garrison, which might have resisted many months, a surrender of their whole territory from the knights. He now steered his course to the coast of Egypt, where, he hoped, by the conquest of the land of Pharaoh, to pave the way for the reduction of the British power in India. He soon subjugated Alexandria, and inhumanly massacred numbers of the inhabitants. He defeated a body of the Mamelukes near the Pyramids, and reduced Grand Cairo.

A British squadron, under the command of the intrepid Nelson, after a long and tedious search for the Republican fleet, discovered it in the Bay of Aboukir, near the mouth of the Nile. The two hostile fleets were equal in number, but the weight of metal, and number of men were greatly in favor of the French.\* Captain Foley, in the

\* The French had also the advantage of situation, and the protection of a range of gun-boats, and some formidable batteries.

Goliath, near the close of the day, commenced the action, by attacking *Le Guerrier*, which was soon disabled. By the spirit, chiefly, of the same active commander, *Le Conquerant* was reduced to a similar state. The *Vanguard*, Nelson's flag-ship, then took an active part in the engagement; and when the gallant Admiral was wounded in the head, his captain (now Sir Edward Berry) ably supplied his place. *L'Orient*, the Republican's flag-ship, was engaged with two English ships; she at length took fire, and blew up. The awe produced from the explosion of this large vessel of 112 guns, suppressed for a while the sanguinary conflict; but it was soon renewed, and finally terminated in the capture of nine ships of the line, besides the burning of the *Timo-leon*, and of a frigate, and the sinking of another ship of war. In this signal victory, not more than 218 of our brave countrymen suffered, and 677 were wounded. The Republicans lost their admiral, and their killed and wounded are supposed to have been at least 4500. This splendid triumph extended

tended the gallant admiral's fame to every part of the globe, and crowned the intrepid combatants, who manned the fleet, with wreaths of immortal honor. It was long the chief topic of conversation, long the theme of panegyric. The Grand Signor, though only a nominal sway in Egypt, provoked by the invasion, declared war against the Republic.

An armament sailed for the reduction of the island of Minorca, and an immediate descent was effected. A Spanish force threatened to surround the first invading division, but they were soon repelled, and the remainder of the troops landed without opposition. General Stuart summoned the Governor to surrender. Intimidated at the erection of two formidable batteries, and the appearance of a naval armament, the garrison capitulated, and the island reduced without the loss of a man.

But, such are the chequered scenes of war, that while the English subjugated one island, they lost the territories they had for some time retained in St. Domingo. The fury of disease, and the resistance of the French, mulattoes, and negroes, rendered further acquisition

quisition impracticable. They, therefore, determined to surrender Port-au-Prince and St. Marc, to Touissaint, a Negritian commander, who had almost annihilated the French in the island, and in the course of the year the English evacuated every other post.

Flushed with the brilliant victory of Aboukir, and the prospect of assistance from the Russians and Turks, his Majesty spoke with confidence on the repeated deliverance of Europe. The majority of Parliament coincided with the royal sentiments, and discountenanced all pacific measures.

Mr. Pitt now brought forward a general tax on income.\* All whose income was under

\* Mr. Pitt's *data*, upon which he founded an estimate of its produce, was as follows : He estimated the annual rent of the landed property in England and Wales, at £25,000,000. The tithes he valued at £4,000,000, the rent of houses at £5,000,000, and the profits of liberal professions at £2,000,000 ; and on all these heads he expected an eighth from Scotland. Income beyond the seas might be stated at £5,000,000 ; annuities from the funds at £12,000,000 ; the profits of commerce at £12,000,000 ; those of internal trade, mechanical

under £60 per annum, were exempt from paying more than the taxes they have already paid; but those, whose income exceeded that sum, should contribute in proportion of ten per cent.; others, who had £200 per annum, a tenth of their revenue. This new impost was warmly opposed in the Commons, but triumphantly became an operative law.

A. D. 1799. The dissensions in Ireland induced the British cabinet to attempt an union of the parliaments of England and Ireland. This political measure had been recommended by some able writers, as well as by many parliamentary speakers. A union between the two kingdoms would undoubtedly strengthen both, and so improve and concentrate their resources and their power, as to enable them to defeat all hostile attempts. Mr. Sheridan, in an animated speech, opposed the bill. Mr. Pitt eloquently supported its propriety. "That a permanent connection between England and

cal exertions and industry, at £28,000,000; producing an aggregate sum of £102,000,000. And from this revenue he expected the supply of £10,000,000.

Ireland was essential to the true interests of both, and that, unless the existing connection should be improved, there was a great risque of separation, he had strong reason to believe. The settlement of 1782, he said, was so imperfect, that it substituted nothing for that system which it demolished : and it was not considered as final, even by the ministers of the time. It left two independent legislatures, connected only with the identity of the executive power ; a very insufficient tie, either in war or peace ; inadequate to the consolidation of strength, or to the mutual participation of political and commercial benefits. The case of the regency exhibited a striking instance of the weakness of the connection ; and, if the two parliaments had differed on the subject of the war, the danger of a disjunction would have been seriously alarming. Great Britain had always felt a common interest in the safety of Ireland ; but that interest was never so obvious and urgent, as when the enemy attacked the former realm, through the medium of the latter. The French had shown, by their conduct,

duct, that they deemed Ireland the most vulnerable part of the empire : and this consideration alone ought to force the adoption of a measure, which would tend to strengthen and secure that country. She would secure to herself protection in the hour of danger ; the most effectual means of increasing her commerce, and improving her agriculture, the command of the English capital, the infusion of English manners and English industry, necessarily tending to ameliorate her condition. That she would see the avenue to honors, to distinctions, and exalted situations in the general seat of empire, opened to all those, whose abilities and talents enabled them to indulge an honorable and laudable ambition." Mr. Pitt further observed, " that the question was not what Ireland would gain, but what she would preserve ; not merely how she might best improve her situation, but how she might avert a pressing and immediate danger." Lord Hawkesbury contended, that nothing but an union would remove the radical evils of Ireland. Mr. Dundas defended the bill. " He particularised



the advantages of the Scottish union, and alleged, that the confidence which ought to subsist between the governors and the governed, could only be established under the auspices of an imperial legislature, which would be free from the apprehensions and animosities interwoven with the frame of the Irish parliament, arising from the opposition between the power and the population of the country."

Mr. Pitt's plan for the Union being submitted to the house in eight propositions, a majority of 125 voted for their being referred to a general committee. In the Lords, Lord Grenville discussed the bill in a long speech, which gave general satisfaction. He contended, "that the pretended bond of connection between Ireland and this kingdom, was not merely imperfect, but was absolutely null." He illustrated this point by referring to the chief branches of the prerogative, in which the identity of the sovereign of the two realms could not enforce a desirable unity of action. Under such a system, he said, there was no security for the connection.

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The general interest, therefore, required new arrangements, and the evils of Ireland, in particular, called for the application of a speedy remedy. He traced the origin of these divisions and animosities, which had retarded, in that country, the progress of civilization; attributed the late rebellion to the influence of jacobinical principles; and contended, that nothing but a legislative union would furnish an effectual antidote to the poison of such doctrines, or correct the radical vices of the government. The Earl of Moira and Lord Holland advised the ministry to relinquish it, because it was obnoxious to the Irish. The Marquis of Lansdown approved of the ministerial scheme. Lord Mulgrave, the Earls of Carlisle and Westmorland, were of the same opinion; and the resolutions were adopted by the House.

Prior to the address being voted, Mr. Foster, speaker of the House of Commons of Ireland, violently reprobated the scheme as injurious to the freedom and prosperity of that country. Mr. G. Ponsonby took the  
same

same side of the question, and detailed the ill consequences of the pending bill.

The opposition which the Union Bill met with in Ireland, did not so far operate with administration as to produce a dereliction of the object, yet it procrastinated the business; and they thought it more prudent to wait, than at present to enforce the final determination of the bill.

During the impending alterations on the Union, the schemes of the malecontents in both kingdoms were examined by a committee of the British House of Commons. The result produced an act for suppressing the London Corresponding Society, and also other clubs considered as hostile to the constitution, and for the more effectual suppression of sedition. An alliance with the Emperor of Russia was now finally arranged. That potentate agreed to employ 45,000 men against the French, in consideration of a subsidy from Great Britain. The Commons, after some reflections on the lavish expenditure of the public money, and on the impolicy

policy of continuing the war, voted £825,000 to subsidise the Russians, the Portuguese and the Swiss.

When the cessation of hostilities took place between the Emperor of Germany and the French Republic, it was the general opinion, that the treaty would not long remain permanent. It was considered that the Emperor, in consenting to a treaty, rather sought a respite, than a permanent peace. The French Republic, by their repeated encroachments on the right of nations, furnished him with a plausible pretext for re-arming ; and the preparations of Russia, and the persuasions of Great Britain, confirmed him in his hostile intentions. The French Directory, while the Russians were on their march, importuned the Emperor and the Diet to enforce their retreat, but finding all remonstrances ineffectual, they recommenced hostilities, and engaged the Austrians near Loire.

Italy a second time became the seat of war. The French in the preceding winter had dispossessed the King of Sardinia of  
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Piedmont, and formed it into a republic. They also invaded the dominions of the King of Naples, made themselves masters of Capua, and soon after of his capital. They seized on the principality of Tuscany, and, for pretended acts of perfidy, deposed its sovereign.

In the Veronese, General Kray rescued Verona from their power, routed them near Magnan, and harassed them by his perseverance and activity. The Russian General, Souvoroff, having joined the Austrians, stormed the posts near Adda, completely defeated Moreau, and triumphantly entered Milan. The confederates reduced Mantua, Turin, and Alexandria, and prevailed in an obstinate conflict in the Modenese and at Novi.

The Neapolitans, by the assistance of British seamen, and of several other nations, actively exerted themselves. Captain Troubridge captured Fort St. Elmo, retook Naples, and was afterwards instrumental to a counter-revolution in the Roman state. The spirit of an enraged nation effected a similar change in Tuscany. General Souvoroff,  
after

after his fortunate career in Italy, marched into Switzerland. Massena engaged the Russian General, and impeded his progress. He also checked Korsakoff, and perfectly secured Switzerland.

In Egypt, Bonaparte was busily engaged in counteracting the efforts of the Egyptian Bays. He invaded the Holy Land, proceeded into Syria, and besieged Acre. Though not fortified, it was heroically defended by Sir Sidney Smith. The Turks, animated by his example, made repeated sorties, and repelled the most vigorous attacks of the French; and, after a siege of two months, forced the dispirited foe to abandon the enterprise. But the Ottoman troops were not so successful; they engaged Bonaparte in Egypt, where they were completely defeated.

A new war commenced in India, but it was of short duration, though in its progress and decision, important. On the departure of the republican armament for Egypt, the commissioners for the affairs of India, alarmed for our Asiatic territories, dispatched a  
fleet


fleet and troops for their defence. The Earl of Mornington, the present Marquis Wellesley, then Governor-General, had been very assiduous in counteracting the hostile intentions of the restless Tippoo, who had repeatedly evaded his Lordship's offers of negotiation.\* He accordingly gave orders for the march of the troops, and also sent intelligence to the commander of the British naval armament on the Malabar coast, and to the allies of the company, that he considered the British government in India, in a state of hostility with that of Maissour. About 18,000 men, mostly native Indians, marched from the coast of Coromandel, under the command of General Harris; and being reinforced by the Nizam troops, he reduced some forts on the frontiers

\* Tippoo had received a reinforcement from the Mauritius, and a promise of assistance from Zeman Shah, King of Candahar. Finding the Governor-General would no longer be trifled with, he gave a reluctant assent to the admission of an envoy; but this was only an artifice to gain time, as it was no secret, that he had recently dispatched ambassadors to the Executive Directory of France.

of Maissour. In the meantime, Tippoo engaged a brigade from the Bombay establishment, under the command of Lieutenant-General James Stuart. The great superiority of the Sultan's force did not insure them victory : they were defeated with no inconsiderable loss. This brilliant success reflects credit on the General, and his handful of men.

Tippoo now advanced to meet the grand army ; he engaged the right wing near Malavelli ; the conflict, which was not very sanguinary, ended in the defeat of the Maissourians. On General Harris's approach to Seringpatam, a second, and equally as favorable a conflict took place.

Tippoo had neglected to take the proper measures for obstructing the enemy's march, or of intercepting their supplies of provisions. General Harris now prepared to besiege the town, and his operations were prompt and vigorous. As soon as a sufficient breach was made, arrangements took place for an assault. The troops advanced in the heat of the day, and having passed the Caveri, approached the





the rampart. Serjeant Graham led the forlorn hope with an animated countenance; but, while he was fixing the color-staff on the breach, he was shot through the head. The alarmed Sultan hastened along the rampart, and found his soldiers retreating from the grenadiers, who had rushed through the breach. He endeavoured to rally the fugitives, but British impetuosity was irresistible. The harassed Prince had received several wounds; and, in aiming a blow at a soldier who was seizing his sword-belt, he was killed by a ball which struck him on the temple. When all opposition ceased, the victorious officers eagerly repressed the violence of their men. Desultory acts of depredation could not be prevented, but the wealth of the palace was reserved for regular distribution.

A division of the subjugated country ensued. The Nizam and the Mahrattas shared in the Sultan's dominions. A part was assigned to a prince of that family, who had unjustly been robbed of his power by Tippoo's usurpation; and the territories of the East India Company were also considerably augmented.

mented. This signal victory secured the British interest in India, and gave the Company a decided superiority over the princes of the East.

An expedition, prior to the intelligence of our success in India, was planned for the reduction of the United States. After a series of tedious preparations, and a further delay from unfavorable weather, Sir Ralph Abercromby, the commander, effected a descent on the coast of North Holland. A French and Dutch armament, of upwards of 7000, engaged the British forces; a smart conflict ensued, but the advantage was in favor of the English. The enemy lost upwards of 1000 men; and of the British combatants, about 450. The enemy saved Sir Ralph the trouble of attacking the Helder fort, which it was his intention to have done the next morning, by a precipitate retreat in the night, and with the loss of a considerable train of artillery. They also abandoned a naval magazine, and 13 ships of war, besides the Indiamen taken without resistance. Admiral Mitchell then prepared to enter the harbour

of the Texel, and his appearance alarmed the Hollanders.\* Having summoned Admiral Story, the Dutch commander, to hoist the flag of the Prince of Orange, he promised to deliver up his fleet, as his men refused to fight. The majority of the Hollanders were inimical to the restitution of the Stadtholder, and that political animosity was farther heightened by the commercial rivalry to obstruct the success of the English. The greater part of the inhabitants threatened a resolute resistance; and the protracted delay of the reinforcements gave the French an opportunity of providing for the support of their allies.

The British troops for several days had no other shelter than from trenches dug out of

\* The Hollanders did not think it possible, to use the Admiral's own words, that we could so soon have laid down the buoys, and led down to them in line-of-battle, in a channel where they themselves go through, but with one or two ships at a time.

The captured ships were 12 in number, and 8 of them from 54 to 74 guns. About the same time, the Hollanders lost their settlements on the Surinam river, in South America.

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the sand, but they found better quarters in their progress. Prior to the arrival of the Duke of York, the English were attacked by 12,000 men ; but so strong was the post of the Zuyp, and so vigorously defended,\* that the French retreated with the loss of 800 men, while the English did not exceed 200.

The Duke of York, and a Russian armament, now arrived. As the allied army was daily gaining strength, the Duke thought it advisable to come to an immediate engagement. The Russians made great havock, and pushed forward to Bergen. Sir Ralph's column penetrated to Hoorn, and the two remaining columns were equally as successful ; but the rash confidence of the Russians exposed them to such danger, that the retreat † of the whole force became expedient.

\* In this engagement the Guards eminently exerted themselves. They fought with distinguished prowess, and made great havoc on a column of the French.

† In this conflict the French lost upwards of 2000 men, killed and wounded, and 3000 prisoners. The English, about 1000 in killed, wounded, or captured, and of the Russians, 2000.

As soon as the inclemency of the weather permitted another action, the army advanced to the attack in four columns. Several severe and well-contested conflicts took place, and mostly in favor of the English. But after the last action, which also terminated to their honor, as they were left masters of the field, the allied army received considerable reinforcements, and so strongly stationed, as to make it hazardous to renew the attack. This consideration, and the difficulty of procuring the necessary supplies, joined to the ruined state of the roads, determined the chief officers to abandon the expedition. A convention was adjusted between the commanders of the hostile armies; they permitted the Duke and his army to retreat unmolested, on condition of delivering up 8000 French and Dutch prisoners, taken prior to the present campaign.\*

\* The Duke had it in his power to secure a retreat, by inundating North Holland; but, as the measure would have greatly distressed the inhabitants, his Royal Highness preferred to purchase a safe retreat, by the surrender of prisoners without exchange.

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The two councils had lately humbled the French Directory, but they, in their turn, were violently attacked from the ambition of Bonaparte. Unexpectedly returning from Egypt, he procured an appointment to the command of the Parisian guards, and strengthened his interest with the army and with the people, he forcibly dissolved the two assemblies. By the assistance of the artful Sieyes, they modelled the government at their will; and, though the name, and some of the forms of a republic remained, Bonaparte became the sovereign of France, under the title of the First Consul. The terror of his name, and his popularity with the soldiery, secured the assent of the people to the new constitution.

The British Parliament met earlier than was customary, chiefly to enable his Majesty "to avail himself of the voluntary services of the militia," to re-inforce the army in Holland. The bill soon passed, and after some financial arrangements, Parliament adjourned.

During the recess, some interesting com-

munications passed between our court and the new Consul. Willing to gratify the republic with a cessation of hostilities, or, in the event of a refusal, to throw a stigma on the English, Bonaparte addressed a letter to our sovereign. "Is the war, (continues the Consul), which has nearly, for eight years, ravaged the four quarters of the world, to be eternal? How can the two most enlightened nations in Europe, whose strength and resources are more than sufficient to answer the demands of safety and independence, sacrifice commercial prosperity, public welfare, and private happiness, to fallacious ideas of greatness? Why are they so insensible to the attractions of peace, an object of primary necessity, and of the first glory? These sentiments (he flatteringly added) could not but inspire the heart of a prince, who, at the head of a free state, and whose sole view in the exercise of royalty, was to make his subjects happy. France and Great Britain (he said) might long continue hostilities without exhausting the strength which they abused:

but

but he would venture to affirm, that the fate of all civilized nations depended on the termination of the war."

A. D. 1800. The power of the chief Consul was too early to suggest an idea of permanency. His Majesty, therefore, commanded Lord Grenville to transmit an answer, declining a negotiation to a period, when France might be deemed more fully competent of supporting the relations of peace and amity. The minister Talleyrand answered some parts of Lord Grenville's note, and also renewed offers of negotiation. He denied that the French had been the aggressors, and retorted the charge upon the English.

When these papers were laid before Parliament, Lord Grenville enumerated the repeated acts of Gallic injustice, and on the hazard of confiding in the professions of a government, who had paid so little attention to their most solemn contracts. He reviewed the treaties concluded in the course of the war, not one of which, he contended, had been preserved inviolate. But even suppose the First Consul should be sincere in his over-



tures, there was no security for the continuance of his power, and his acts might be annulled by another usurper. He noticed the disputed point of aggression, and concluded by moving an address to support his Majesty in the prosecution of the war.

The Duke of Bedford thought the present moment favorable to negotiation, and proposed such a modification of the address as suited his pacific ideas. The Earl of Carlisle contended that the only prospect of security depended on a vigorous prosecution of hostilities. But it was Lord Holland's opinion, that there was a sufficient change in the principles of the French government to render a treaty more secure, than it would have been some months ago; and that, if ambition characterised the First Consul, he saw no reason why it should preclude negotiation, though it might claim attention in the adjustment of terms. Several peers spoke on the occasion. On a division, the address was voted by a majority of 86.

Mr. Dundas proposed a similar address in the Commons. He censured, with great freedom,

dom, the character of the First Consul, and the unchastened and dangerous spirit of the French government. Mr. Whitbread was favourable to the sincerity of Bonaparte, and advised an immediate negotiation ; but Mr. Canning was of opinion, that a more unfit season for treating would probably never occur. Mr. Pitt animadverted to the origin of the war, and imputed it solely to French aggression. He contended that our court had no concern in the promotion of a confederacy, before the year 1792 had nearly elapsed ; and that, even then, we only proposed a general concert for the establishment of peace, not for the propagation of war. He was of opinion, that we were too cautious, rather than too forward in our interference. It was the Jacobin system which produced the war, not the jealousy or the hostile disposition of the European powers. The French were the aggressors in every instance, and other nations were under the necessity of taking up arms in their own defence. The successive rulers of the Republic had acted upon one general principle of arbitrary encroachment ;

ment ; and the late change of governors presented no hope of a cessation of the mischief, nor offered any security for negotiation. Mr. Fox maintained, that Great Britain was the aggressor, and he was of the same opinion respecting the conduct of Austria and Prussia. These powers had made preparations for interfering in the internal affairs of France, and our abrupt dismissal of M. Chauvelin, amounted to a declaration of war. The address was sanctioned by a majority of 201 votes.

Mr. Sheridan moved for an enquiry into the origin and conduct of the expedition to Holland. He begged to be informed on what grounds, and from what information it was undertaken. He admitted the policy of attempting to rescue Holland from the dominion of France ; but, before so many valuable lives were risked, the dispositions of the people, the defensible state of the country, and the probability of success, ought to have been maturely considered. Mr. Dundas extolled the importance of the capture of the Dutch fleet, which the French intended

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ed to have employed in the invasion of England or of Ireland; and he maintained, that the descent on Holland, by a diversion of force, considerably weakened their exertions in Germany and Italy. Mr. Sheridan's enquiry was lost by a majority of 171. Lord Holland in the Upper House, brought forward a similar motion, but it was opposed by the Earl of Moira, as it might lead to dangerous disclosures. The peers disapproved of Lord Holland's motion: only six voted for it, while fifty appeared against it.

Many various bills were sanctioned this session. An improvement was made in the income-tax. It tended to prevent the facility of evading it, and to exact more from farmers. The suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* act was continued by a new bill; the time for the redemption of the land-tax was also extended. Some bills passed for lessening the restrictions upon the trade of neutrals, and other commercial purposes. Different regulations, to remedy the inconveniences arising from the high price of corn, were put in force. A bill for the suppression of adultery

tery passed the House of Lords, but was rejected in the Commons, as not likely to be effectual.\*

The union of the two parliaments of England and Ireland was again re-assumed. The Marquis of Cornwallis communicated to the Irish Peers and Commons, the resolutions as voted in the British Parliament in the year 1799, and a full developement of the scheme was given by Lord Castlereagh.† Long and spirited

\* During this session of parliament, Hadfield, formerly a private in a marching regiment, fired a pistol at his Majesty in one of the theatres, but happily without effect. Proofs of insanity were proved, as he had formerly been wounded in his head, which occasioned a temporary derangement; he was, therefore, acquitted.

† The first article provided, that the two realms should be incorporated, under the appellation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The succession to the monarchy was continued, not altered, by the second article. The fourth, assigned the representation of Ireland in the united legislature, to four spiritual and twenty-eight temporal peers, and one hundred commoners. The fifth related to the union of the churches. The sixth tended to the adjustment of commercial concerns on a general basis of equality. The seventh, fixed

spirited debates took place ; the thunder of eloquence attacked, but did not defeat the intended scheme. On a division, the union was sanctioned by a majority of 43.

When the two Irish houses of Parliament had agreed to the articles, they voted an address, acquainting his Majesty, that they had cordially embraced the principle of incorporating the two realms into one, by a complete legislative union ; that they had been assisted by the resolutions of the British Parliament in framing a plan of that kind, and that they were ready to give their final sanction, in concert with Great Britain, to the articles, which they now offered to their Sovereign.

His Majesty, after communicating this address to both houses of Parliament, recommended them to complete the great work of union. After several weeks debate, all the articles were sanctioned. But in Ireland,

the amount of financial contribution at the rate of 15 parts for Great Britain to 2 for Ireland ; and the eighth respected the continuance of the existing laws and courts of justice.

these

these bills did not pass without a renewal of spirited debates among the expiring parliament. The progress of the Bill of Union in England, was not noted for any violent altercation; and, after its enactment, his Majesty declared, "that he should ever consider this great measure as the happiest event of his reign." Indeed, all must candidly confess, that it was one of the most judicious acts of this eventful reign; and it is to be hoped, that its benefits may be attested by uniform experience.

The French Consul, affecting to be the pacificator of Europe, had proposed to the Emperor of Germany, a renewal of negotiation; but the success of the late campaign, and the influence of the British court, prevailed with the Emperor to continue hostilities.

After repeated conflicts, the Austrian General, Melas, successfully engaged Massena near Voltri, and confined the enemy within the walls of Genoa. A British squadron assisted in the blockade, and a scarcity of provisions greatly embarrassed the defenders. Disease became so prevalent, and hunger so  
urgent

urgent, that Massena was under the necessity of soliciting an unmolested retreat. Bonaparte earnestly desired to strike a decided blow in Italy. He accordingly dispatched Berther, with a strong armament, to prepare for his personal operations. Advancing into Piedmont, over the mountains of St. Bernard, the French drove their fugitive foes before them ; and, penetrating into the Milanese, retook some of their principal towns. But at Marengo, they completely triumphed.

At first the vigor of the Austrians was eminently predominant : they turned the wings of the French army, and forced the centre to fall back ; and Melas even flattered himself with hopes of cutting off the retreat of the the disordered troops : but, when Bonaparte, who was in the heat of the action, almost despaired of success, a *corps de reserve* came up, and changed the fortune of the day. The Austrians were checked in their career, and, though they exhibited prodigies of valor, yet, overpowered with numbers, they were finally routed. About 9000 were  
either



either killed, wounded, or made prisoners; but not without considerable loss on the part of the conquerors. This signal defeat ruined the hopes of the Emperor. He sued for an armistice, which was granted by the surrender of Genoa, Milan, Turin, and other fortresses. Several other conflicts took place, with considerable loss on both sides. A negotiation took place, which produced preliminaries, founded on the treaty of Campo Formio.

British hostilities this year were chiefly naval. They destroyed the forts of Quiberon on the coast of Bretagne; they dispossessed the Dutch of the African island of Goree, and of the American island of Curacoa. After a tedious blockade, the French were obliged to surrender Malta. Cadiz and Ferrol were menaced by a British armament, but the rage of disease, then prevalent in the garrison, and among the inhabitants, joined to the little prospect of success, prevailed with the commander to abandon the enterprise.

The Turks, now our allies, took the fort of  
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El-Arish by assault, and \* murdered 300 of the French garrison ; but a renewed offer, on the part of the French, proposed to surrender every town and fort they held in Egypt, on condition of a safe return to France. But the Lords of the Admiralty had given private instructions to Lord Keith, not to agree to any treaty which might leave the French troops at liberty to act in Europe, or which should not include the surrender of all the ships in the port of Alexandria. His Lordship, in consequence, withheld his sanction.†

The republican troops now attacked and defeated the Vizier's army. As soon as the British ministry were informed that an agreement had been concluded, and that Sir Sid-

\* This wanton barbarity was in retaliation of the execrable inhumanity of Bonaparte, who, four days after the reduction of Jaffa, is said to have ordered 3,800 prisoners to be shot, notwithstanding the remonstrances of General Kleber.

† This refusal was unfortunate and impolitic, as it prolonged hostilities in Egypt, which might have been prevented by the eagerness of the French to execute the treaty.

ney Smith had sanctioned it, they sent an immediate order for its ratification ; but it came too late, for Menou, who had succeeded to the command of the army, on Kleber's assassination by the Turks, refused to abandon the country.

The pacific negotiations between the French Republic and the Germanic Emperor, drew from the British cabinet some expressions of an amicable tendency ; and conferences, through the medium of M. Otto, passed between the two courts ; but the French insisted on a naval armistice, and were otherwise so unreasonable in their demands, that the British cabinet discontinued the correspondence.

Some alarming disturbances took place in England, on account of the high price of corn. Some trifling acts of violence were committed at Birmingham, and London manifested clamorous multitudes ; but the prudent activity of the Lord Mayor prevented any violent outrages. His Majesty, ever attentive to alleviate the distresses of his subjects, proposed to parliament, " that the  
earliest

earliest and most ample encouragement should be given to the importation of every species of grain, and that steps should be taken for the permanent extension and improvement of agriculture. His Majesty also recommended an enquiry into the state of the laws, respecting the commerce which took place in various articles of provision, that undue combination and fraudulent practices might be checqued, without encroaching on the rights of the dealers in these commodities, or obstructing that established course of trade, which appeared to be requisite for the proper supply of the markets. He was sorry to assert that peace at present was unattainable, without the sacrifice of those essential considerations, on the maintenance of which, all its advantages must depend.

In the House of Lords, the debates on the address were trifling. Lord Holland contended, that war and scarcity were too frequently inseparable companions; and, after criminating his Majesty's ministers, he moved an amendment, stating, that a change of ad-

ministration was necessary for the attainment of a safe and honorable peace. Lord Hobart said, that economy was the best, because it was the most certain remedy for the great evil of which the public complained, but which, he thought, did not arise from the war. Lord Grenville was not inimical to an honorable peace ; but, as the inconciliatory disposition of the foe prevented us from obtaining it, he was convinced of the policy of continuing the war. Lord Holland's amendment was rejected by a majority of 45.

In the Commons, Mr. Pitt and Mr. Grey were the chief speakers. Mr. Pitt affirmed, that the war was not the cause of the high price of provisions, as these articles bore a moderate price in several years of increased pressure from the weight of taxes ; the cause originated in the failure of the last year's produce ; and the late harvest, though not so scanty as the preceding, had not been remarkably abundant. The best expedients for reducing the price, seemed to be the encouragement of importation, the practice of economy, and the use of various articles in lieu

lieu of bread. Mr. Pitt, on the subject of negotiation, justified the King's repugnance to a separate treaty, and censured the arrogance of an enemy, who insisted on the disjunction of confederate powers, before he would condescend to treat with them. Mr. Grey animadverted into the causes which had impaired the prosperity of the country, and had produced a rapid accumulation of misfortune. He hoped, that a blind confidence would no longer be reposed in men who were destitute of political wisdom, and whose inability and folly threatened the ruin of the state. He had reason to think that peace might have been obtained at the beginning of the year, but the prospect was blasted by the obstinacy of the cabinet. The Commons, however, were of a different opinion, and voted the address almost unanimously.\*

Several

\* His Majesty issued a proclamation recommending economy. "He particularly exhorted all masters of families to reduce the consumption of bread, by at least one third of the quantity consumed in ordinary cases; and in no case to suffer the same to exceed one quartern loaf for

Several bills passed on this occasion : one prohibited the use of grain in distillation, and the exportation of provisions in general. Another, for granting bounties on importation, followed, and other regulations adopted.

The Russian potentate, influenced by a fickleness of disposition, abandoned the confederacy. He also expressed strong resentment against Great Britain, and inveighed against her maritime arrogance and encroachments. He laid an embargo on all the British vessels in his ports, even before the dispute respecting Malta originated. He, however, soon took off the embargo, but afterwards renewed it, under pretence of our detaining that island, which he claimed in consequence of the assumed authority of Grand Master of the order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem. He even confined our seamen, and harassed them with rigorous

each person, in each week ; to abstain from the use of flour in pastry ; and restrict the consumption of oats, and other grain, for the subsistence of horses." Some few families attended to this advice, but it was not strictly observed.

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treatment. He also proposed to the courts of Denmark and Sweden, a renewal of those engagements of armed neutrality, which the late Empress had planned during the American war; and a treaty to this effect was signed at Petersburg. The British court resenting this conduct, laid an embargo on the Russian, Danish, and Swedish ships, and prepared for the commencement of immediate hostilities.

A. D. 1801. The Emperor of Germany once more renounced the late preliminaries, and renewed the war. But the signal discomfiture at Hohenlinden, by Moreau; the success of Augereau at Franconia, and the progress of the French in Italy, prevailed with him to sue for peace. A treaty was signed by Count Cobentzel, at Luneville. All the Belgic provinces were ceded to France; as were also the country of Falkenstein, the Frichstal, and all the Austrian territory on the left bank of the Rhine, between Zurzach and Basle; the fortresses of Dusseldorf, Chrenbreitstein, Philipsburgh, Cassell, and Old Brisach were restored, and the Venetian



territories, agreeable to the former assignment, were confirmed to the Emperor.

In this critical crisis, the first united parliament of the two kingdoms, assembled at Westminster. His Majesty, in his address to both Houses, observed, "that he derived great satisfaction from being enabled, for the first time, to avail himself of the advice and assistance of the united parliament. This memorable æra, (he said) distinguished by the accomplishment of a measure calculated to augment and consolidate the strength and resources of the empire, and to cement more closely the interests and affections of my subjects, will, I trust, be equally marked by that vigor, energy, and firmness, which the circumstances of our present situation peculiarly require. He animadverted on the unjust and violent proceedings of the Court of St. Petersburg, and censured the convention lately concluded, as tending to establish by force a new code of maritime laws, inconsistent with the rights, and hostile to the interests of this country."

After noticing the necessary supplies, "he  
expressed

expressed to the Commons his confident hope, that the deliberations of both Houses would be uniformly directed to the great object of improving the benefits of the union, and of promoting, to the utmost, the prosperity of every part of his dominions. He assured them of his cordial concurrence in their patriotic endeavours, and that they might rely on his availing himself of the earliest opportunity of terminating the present contest, on grounds consistent with our security and honour."

An address was moved by the Duke of Montrose. He extolled the union as pregnant with blessings to both kingdoms; he exulted in our naval power, and he hoped, that their active exertions would disconcert the machinations of the northern confederates. Earl Fitzwilliam affirmed, that he could not sanction that part of the address, which tended to involve the country in new hostilities; he therefore proposed an enquiry into the state of the nation, and into the conduct of the ministry. Earl Moira wished to have the ground of the approaching hostilities

hostilities with the northern powers fairly stated, before parliament sanctioned a war, which, perhaps, might be avoided without disgrace. The Lord Chancellor Eldon, discussed the right of searching neutral vessels. He contended, that it was a part of the law of nations, originating from the rights of nature, which no convention could destroy. It was connected, he said, with the idea of self-defence ; for any nation, which, professing to be neutral, should convey to our open enemies the implements and stores of war, would, in fact, by furnishing the means of our destruction, become our enemy. Dereliction of this right would be highly injurious, if not fatal to our maritime interests and naval glory. A new war would certainly be a great evil, but it would be less pernicious than the consequences of such a sacrifice as that which he now opposed. On a division, 17 peers voted for an amendment, while 73 voted for the original address.

In the Commons, Mr. Grey contended, that the claims of our court ought to be examined by the test of justice, before recourse  
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should

should be had to sanguinary violence. Our naval ascendancy ought to be studiously preserved, as the source of our glory, and the bulwark of our safety ; but he hoped, that the maintenance of that distinction would never interfere with any claim inconsistent with the legitimate interests of other independent nations, or with the substantial principles of justice and equity. Mr. Pitt maintained, “ the assertion of a claim sanctioned by the most weighty authorities, and observed, that, in addition to the laws of nations, to established practice, and the opinions of courts of maritime law, he could adduce the strict letter of engagements with the northern powers, requiring a different conduct from that which they were at the present moment preparing to adopt. He could also shew, that Sweden, when engaged in a war with Russia, had acted upon the very principle which we wished to enforce, though she now refused to submit to it ; and Denmark, in the last autumn, had solemnly promised not to send out another convoy till the point should be determined ; yet that

Court

Court was now ready to maintain by force of arms, the stipulations of a confederacy similar to that of the year 1800. Would it, therefore, be prudent for Great Britain to acquiesce in such violations of treaty, to endure such glaring insults? Would it be expedient to give opportunities for the navy of our foes to be recruited, to connive at the supply of blockaded forts with warlike stores and provisions, or to suffer neutral nations, by hoisting a flag upon a sloop or a fishing-boat, to convey the treasures of South-America to the harbours of Spain, or the naval stores of the Baltic to Brest, or to Toulon? Such acquiescence would tend to the ruin of our naval preponderance; and, if we should lose that advantage, the spirit of the country would be in a manner annihilated."

The address was then voted without a division. The case of the catholics in Ireland, whose claims, after the union, formed a subject of discussion in the cabinet, was frequently alluded to in the late debates. Mr. Pitt and Lord Grenville favored the wishes of the sectaries, as necessary to confirm the interests of  
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of the united kingdom. They affirmed, that as no danger could arise from it, policy required the concession. Several of the royal counsellors, however, maintained a different opinion; and his Majesty took a decided part in the dispute. He alledged that the oath taken by him at his coronation, precluded his assent to a scheme, which might in its consequences, endanger the religious establishment.

Mr. Pitt, in consequence of the royal repugnance to the claims of the Hibernian catholics, declared that he conceived himself bound by his duty, his conscience, and his honor, to resign that situation, in which he was not at full liberty to pursue his ideas of equity and public benefit. His resignation was accepted, as was also that of Lord Grenville, and of Earl Spencer.

His Majesty, after some deliberation, selected Mr. Addington as Mr. Pitt's successor; Lord Hawkesbury succeeded Lord Grenville, and Lord St. Vincent was appointed first Lord of the Admiralty. The office of Speaker to the House of Commons becoming vacant by the promotion

promotion of Mr. Addington, Lord Hawkesbury moved, that Sir John Mitford should be called to the chair, and the House assented.

Mr. Pitt, after Mr. Addington's appointment, remained in office to adjust the national accounts, and regulate the supplies of the year. He estimated them at £42,000,000; a loan of £25,000,000 formed part of the ways and means, exclusive of £2,000,000 $\frac{1}{2}$  borrowed for Ireland. Additional taxes were imposed on paper, notes, and deeds; on postage of letters, horses, tea and sugar, &c. The public business had been some time suspended by the indisposition of his Majesty, and a regency, it was thought, would be necessary; but, after three weeks illness, his Majesty recovered, and returned to the duties of the state. Mr. Addington was now formally appointed to the two offices Mr. Pitt had enjoyed; Lord Hobart and Mr. Charles York succeeded Mr. Dundas and Mr. Windham, who had also given in their resignations, and the Earl of Hardwicke was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Vigorous

Vigorous operations, against the Danes and Swedes, immediately commenced. In the West Indies General Trigge and Admiral Duckworth sailed from Antigua with a small detachment, and 1500 troops, to the Swedish Isle of St. Bartholomew. The governor, unprepared, immediately surrendered. Leaving a garrison in one of the principal towns, they proceeded, after being joined by a reinforcement from England, to the reduction of St. Martin's. One brigade landed in the French, and another in the Dutch territory. The latter on approaching the heights near Fort Amsterdam, met with some feeble opposition; but after some spirited conflicts, finally prevailed, and a capitulation took place. They now steered their course to the Danish islands; \* they captured the isles of St. Thomas, St. John, and St. Croix; and the island of St. Eustatius, about this time, was taken from the French.

\* In one of these conflicts, some negroes, who had never before seen an enemy, engaged with a degree of gallantry, to use the General's own words, and behaved in a manner that would do honor to any troops.

After



After the official arrangements of the new administration, the Earl of Darnley moved for an enquiry into the state of the nation. The Duke of Montrose and the Earl of Westmorland opposed it, as unnecessary. The Earls of Buckingham and Carlisle, declared they had no confidence in the new administration, and therefore friendly to the enquiry. Earl Moira suspected Mr. Pitt's sincerity in the late negotiations, neither did he approve of his general conduct, though he agreed with him in the catholics' emancipation. Lord Grenville vindicated the sincerity of his associates ; and, though he did not wish to shrink from responsibility, opposed it as unseasonable. A majority of 82 rejected Lord Darnley's motion.

Mr. Grey's similar motion in the Commons, was equally unsuccessful : he animadverted on the mode of prosecuting the war ; on the condition and the resources of the country, and on the state of our alliances ; and, on every ground, urged the expediency of an enquiry. Mr. Dundas reviewed the conduct of the war, and pronounced it eminently

nently successful, both in colonial conquests and naval captures. He defended the expeditions to Holland and Spain, as calculated to make a diversion favourable to our allies ; and though our success had not been so prosperous as we could have wished, yet, he was proud to say, that no blame attaches either to the cabinet, or to our fleets and armies. He repelled the charge by minute statements, of having delayed the conveyance of succours to the Austrians in Italy, so as to promote the success of the French armies at Marengo. He extolled the prosperous state of the British empire, in a war of unexampled difficulty and danger, and promised his support to the new administration in the continuance of hostilities, till they could procure an honorable and secure peace. Lord Temple was very severe on the new ministers, and supported the motion. Mr. Pitt approved of the new cabinet; he did not despair, under their superintendance, of the good government of the country, or of a proper use of its resources. He denied that his resignation arose from the difficulties of his

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his situation respecting the war, and confined his motive to the case of the catholics, who, he still thought, deserved full relief, and might be gratified without the least danger to that establishment, which derived such strength from the late union. After speaking favourably of the war, and the state of the kingdom, he again advised a spirited assertion of our naval rights against the northern confederacy. Mr. Fox, in a long speech, discussed the points at issue between Great Britain, and the northern powers. He was decidedly of opinion, that a new war might have been avoided by prudence and moderation, and without any sacrifice of honor. He contradicted Mr. Pitt's statements respecting the consequences of the war, but agreed with him in his desire of catholic emancipation. He lamented the attachment of the present cabinet to that system, which had so greatly injured and degraded the kingdom; and intreated the House to institute an immediate enquiry into the conduct of ministers. Mr. Addington renounced all attachment to any measures,

tures, or to the system of any set of men, and affirmed, that he was governed by no other principles, than those which were conducive to the true interest of his country. He was in hopes of a speedy reconciliation with the northern powers, and it was his determination to facilitate a peace with France. On a division 291 opposed the motion, while 105 voted in its favor.

During these parliamentary contentions, the British fleet, under the command of Sir Hyde Parker and Lord Nelson, was steering its course towards the Sound. The governor of Cronenburg Castle intimated, that he would not suffer the ships to pass unmolested. The cannonade from the forts did little execution, and our fleet soon reached the isle of Huene. Here Admiral Parker reconnoitered, what he calls, the formidable line of ships, radeaux, pontoons, gallies, fire-ships, and gun-boats. The Danish arrangements were, indeed, truly awful and tremendous. Batteries of cannon and mortars appeared in almost every part of the shore; the Crown islands, as well as that of Amak, were considerably

siderably strengthened ; the mouth of the harbour was defended by a ponderous chain, and by a fort erected on piles ; and a lined shipping strengthened the whole. Lord Nelson advanced with twelve sail of the line, four frigates, some sloops, fire-ships, and bomb-vessels ; but, from the intricacy of the navigation, two of the largest ships grounded ; and a third was obliged to anchor far from the scene of action. Captain Murray, in the *Edgar*, led the van with animated intrepidity. The *Monarch* sustained the most destructive fire ; her brave commander, Mosse, lost his life, and also 50 of his men. Captain Riou was also killed, while engaging the ships in the mouth of the harbour. This sanguinary contest raged for four hours, and with great slaughter on both sides. The loss of British combatants was 250, but of the Danes, double the number. Some of our ships suffered severely, but 17 Danish vessels, floating batteries included, were sunk, burned, or captured.

After the contest was over, Lord Nelson threatened to burn all the floating batteries  
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he had taken, and also the prisoners on board, if the Danes fired another gun. This peremptory mandate had the desired effect. His Lordship landed, and an immediate convention was signed for a regular armistice. Intelligence now arrived of the death of the Russian Emperor. Had that event been known before, the Danes would probably have submitted without a blow. His violent \* death was unlamented, and his son Alexander succeeded to the throne, amidst the acclamations of general joy.

A revolution in the Russian cabinet followed this unexpected event. Alexander,

\* It was the general opinion, that the Emperor was strangled in his palace, by order of Count Zouboff, on the 24th of March. The character of Paul was a compound of inconsistencies. Sometimes he was mild and humane, at others harsh and cruel ; severe and imperious after moments of affability and condescension ; resentful and unjust, after acts of moderation and equity. His capricious temper, his propensity to suspicion and credulity, his want of steadiness and principle, deprived him of real respect. His despotic conduct excited disgust, and his unbounded passions, by creating alarms, precipitated his ruin.

renouncing the politics of his father, assured the British court of his pacific intentions. The courts of Stockholm and Copenhagen relaxed in their zeal for the armed neutrality ; and the King of Prussia, who had seized Hanover, lowered his tone. The British Admiral, at the request of the Russian Emperor, forbore to obstruct the Russian or Swedish trade and navigation. The respective embargoes were taken off, and the northern storm subsided before the prorogation of Parliament. Both Houses unanimously voted thanks to the gallant officers and intrepid sailors, who had so eminently distinguished themselves in this arduous enterprize.

A renewal of those machinations, which had been checked by the late coercive laws, caused the *Habeas Corpus* Act to be again suspended, and a bill also passed for the prevention of seditious meetings. Martial law was also continued in Ireland, as the union had not yet sufficiently tranquillized that country.

The election of the Rev. Horne Tooke for the borough of Sarum became the subject  
of

of parliamentary discussion. Lord Temple took the lead in this business, and a committee was appointed to search for precedents. His Lordship contended, that in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth, and James I. the inferior clergy petitioned for eligibility to seats in that House, but they did not presume to claim the *right* of sitting. The House, he said, had, on repeated instances, rejected clerical intruders, and established the principle of their ineligibility. As to Mr. Horne Tooke's alleged abandonment of the priesthood, he denied that a priest could divest himself of his ecclesiastical character. He therefore moved, that the late election for Old Sarum should be superseded by a new choice. Mr. Addington was of opinion, that when the clergy sat in the House, they were not regarded as representatives of the people, and that there were no instances of the return of members described to be in holy orders. He wished that the dispute should be decided by a bill, rather than by a premature motion for a new writ. Sir William Scott strongly defended the bill on



the grounds of reason and law. Mr. Horne Tooke contended, that nothing but positive assertion, unsupported by scriptural authority, by ecclesiastical law, church history, or parliamentary precedent, had proceeded from the advocates of the bill. He declared his readiness to co-operate with the minister in a general act for the exclusion of the clergy, if it should afford a prospect of the increase of moral and religious wisdom; but he did not approve the practice of punishing an individual, by an *ex post facto* law. A bill, agreeable to the minister's proposal, excluding every priest from a seat in parliament, passed the Commons. In the Peers, Lord Thurlow was its chief opponent, as he was of opinion that the act was unconstitutional and unjust.

No intimation, on the close of the session, was given of the impending negotiations, between our court and the French republic. Sir James Saumarez was cruising near Cadiz, when he was informed, that three French ships and a frigate had been seen near Gibraltar. He immediately directed his course to the  
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the entrance of the Straits, and finding that the ships had anchored in the bay of Algesiras, he ordered the Venerable to begin the attack. Linois, the French admiral, had taken his station near the batteries, which defended the bay. A brisk fire ensued, not only from the ships, but also from the fortifications, and from a range of gun-boats so disposed, as to rake the English squadron. Captain Sterling, in the *Pompée*, made a great impression on the flag-ship of Linois, till a change of wind disabled him from acting. As soon as the wind favored, the *Hannibal*, Captain Ferris, pushed forward, in hopes of passing between the French ships and the batteries, but, unfortunately, his ship grounded under one of the batteries ; and, as all efforts were ineffectual, he was obliged to abandon her after a loss of many of his brave crew, and the destruction of numbers of his adversaries. A breeze springing up enabled two other ships to come into action ; they supported for some time, a well-directed fire, and, if the wind had not failed them, they would have enforced the surrender of the ships. The  
little

little prospect of a close engagement, at length prevailed with Sir James to withdraw his force. But this disappointment only stimulated our gallant tars for another conflict. The French fleet, sailing for Cadiz, had been joined by a Spanish detachment, and were a second time encountered by Sir James's squadron. The *Superb* commenced the action with the rear of the united fleet; she fired between the Spanish Admiral's ship and another, of 112 guns, and then retiring, a mutual error, amidst the darkness of the night, produced an action between the two French ships: one of them took fire, and the flames communicating to the other, both blew up, with the loss of upwards of 2000 men. This melancholy accident intimidated the French admiral, and accelerated his retreat. The Spanish ship, the *San Antonio*, was captured, and the *Formidable* \* had a

\* Captain Hood was engaged with the *Formidable*, and, in all probability, would have captured her, had not his ship struck upon a rock, and was with difficulty towed of in a disabled state.

near escape. Sir James\* sailed with his prize for Gibraltar, and Linois steered for Cadiz.

Notwithstanding the impending negotiation between Great Britain and France, an hostile invasion on our coasts, agitated, but did not depress the public mind. Schemes of judicious defence were enforced, and Lord Nelson was ordered to the coast of Boulogne to obstruct, if possible, their invading preparations. He made an attempt to destroy the armed vessels in that port, and, as only a few were sunk or disabled, a more serious attack was resolved on, when he reinforced his armament. The boarding vessels sailed in the night, in four divisions, under the conduct of Captains Somerville, Parker, Cotgrave and Jones, and also other boats, furnished with howitzers, joined in the expedition. Parker's division first approached, and commenced a most spirited attack; but an unforeseen obstacle defeated their sanguine

\* Sir James Saumarez's conduct was truly heroic. Discipline and valor had defeated an armament, to use the Admiral's own words, "of more than treble the force of the English squadron."

expec-

at 10 o'clock. A strong netting, unced up to the lower yards of the French vessels, was fastened by chains to the ground, and to each other. Many intrepid sailors were killed, and many were wounded. Captain Parker lost his leg and his thigh, and his boat would have been captured, had not a cutter seasonably towed her off. Captain Somerville silenced the fire of a brig near the Pier head ; but, far from being able to bring her off, he found great difficulty in securing the retreat of his own boat. Captain Cotgrave, after an undaunted attack, met with no better success ; and Captain Jones, from the obstructions from the tide, was only approaching the scene of action, when the other officers were returning. All admired the zeal and courage displayed in this enterprise, while its success was universally lamented. Captain Parker died of his wounds, after the return of the fleet to the Downs.

We must now beg leave to divert the attention of our readers to the interesting transactions of Egypt. Sir Ralph Abercromby, and a powerful armament having reached the

the Bay of Aboukir, were obstinately opposed in their attempt to disembark. Incessant showers of shell and shot from the fort, from sand-hills, and other posts, assailed their progress; and, when they approached the land, volleys of musketry encreased their danger. The first division that landed repulsed a troop of cavalry; and, on the arrival of others, they dislodged the enemy from their principal hill. Upwards of 700 soldiers and sailors were killed or wounded in this spirited rencounter. A general action soon followed. Sir Ralph wished to turn the right flank of the enemy, advantageously posted on a ridge, with their right near the canal of Alexandria, and their left towards the sea. But, anticipating the attack, they descended from their heights, and rushed into action. The British advanced-guard severely suffered, and it was not without difficulty they repelled their repeated assaults. Upwards of 150 of the English were killed and 1100 wounded. After the surrender of Aboukir, another smart action took place. The French, at day-break, impetuously attacked

tacked the right, in a column of infantry and cavalry, and actually surrounded several regiments, but were so heroically opposed, that no advantage was gained. At length, General Stuart, with the foreign brigade, repulsed the cavalry; the dispirited infantry continued to act, but with a decline of spirit, and with weakened exertions. A formidable body also attempted to penetrate the centre, but failed in every effort. After this unsuccessful assault, the French retreated, and, as the fortified eminences protected their troops, and, the English ill provided with cavalry, no pursuit was attempted. Sir Ralph Abercromby, never known to shrink from danger, was in the heat of the action, and received a mortal wound in his thigh, but could not be prevailed upon to quit the field till the fate of the day was decided. His military fame was deservedly meritorious, and his character as a man, truly estimable. In the British army, about 250 lost their lives, and 1200 were wounded. Upwards 3500 of the French were killed, wounded or made prisoners. Roiz, one of their generals, was found

found dead near a redoubt, and Lanuspe and Bodet, two of their commanders, died of their wounds. Sir Sidney Smith, who headed a party of seamen, was wounded, as was also General Moore, and other staff officers.

After this signal victory, there was a cessation of hostilities for some time. A British and Turkish force, commanded by Colonel Spencer, attacked the fort of Rosetta, and the garrison capitulated. The Grand Vizir defeated the French near Belbois, they reduced Rashmanich, and the enemy took refuge in the city of Cairo. While the Turks formed an encampment within almost cannon-shot of Cairo, General Hutchinson, Sir Ralph Abercromby's successor, invested Gizeth, and his spirited preparations prevailed with the French commandant to propose a surrender.\*

Alex-

\* The terms of capitulation were not humiliating. It was agreed, that the Republican forces of every description should evacuate the city of Cairo, and all other parts of Egypt, save Alexandria; that they should proceed by land to Rosetta, with their arms, baggage, artillery



Alexandria still remained in possession of the French. General Hutchinson, assisted by Admiral Lord Keith, superintended the siege. After some conflicts favorable to the English, and other preparations of hostility, Menou consented to surrender the place on honorable terms.

When intelligence of the brilliant achievements of the British arms in Egypt reached England, general joy pervaded the nation on the signature of the preliminary articles. The negotiation had long been pending between the two courts, and at last brought to a conclusion. It was agreed that the King of Great Britain should restore all possessions conquered in the course of the war, except the island of Trinidad, and that part of Cey-

lery and ammunition, and from thence be conveyed to some of the southern ports of France, at the expence of the allied powers; that all incorporated bodies, and all persons attached to the republican cause, should share the advantages in common with the army; and, that any of the Egyptians who wished to accompany the French army, should have the liberty to attend them; and, as soon as the treaty was confirmed, all prisoners on both sides should be released.

lon, late in possession of the Dutch ; that both the contracting parties should indiscriminately partake in the advantages of the Cape of Good Hope ; the territories of the Ottoman Emperor, including Egypt, should be maintained entire, as they were before the war ; that Malta should be again possessed by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem ; that the French should recognise the republic of the Seven United \* Islands ; that the kingdom of Naples, and the Roman state should be evacuated by the French troops ; and that the Queen of Portugal should not lose any of her territories. It was farther agreed, that English and French plenipotentiaries should immediately repair to Amiens, and treat, in concert, with the allies of the contending powers.

After some intervening time, General Lauriston arrived with the preliminaries sanction-

\* These were, Chephalonia, Corfue, Zante, &c. which, having been taken by the Russians and Turks, had been formed into a republic, under their protection.

ed by Bonaparte. The cheerful countenance, and the approving smile, now universally prevailed, and illuminations were general throughout the kingdom. When his Majesty laid the preliminaries before the House, "he trusted that this important arrangement, while it manifested the justice and moderation of his views, would also be found conducive to the substantial interests of this country, and honorable to the British subject."

The address for the speech met with no opposition in either House. Mr. Windham disapproved of it, and Mr. Sheridan observed, *that it was a peace of which every man was glad, but of which no man was proud.* But when the preliminary articles were discussed in the Peers, Lord Grenville reprobated the peace as disgraceful and ruinous. He contended that a prolongation of the war would be far less fatal, than such a peace; and the Earl of Spencer condemned it, as inadequate to our expectations, and insufficient for our security; but an approving  
address

address was voted by 104 peers. In the Commons, Mr. Pitt and Fox vindicated the peace. The ex-minister contended, that, all circumstances considered, we had obtained for ourselves and our allies, all that we could reasonably expect, or that honor obliged us to demand. Mr. Fox echoed Mr. Pitt's sentiments; he affirmed, that without danger of a rupture of the impending negotiation, we could not have insisted on more favorable terms; and, even the idea of another year of hostilities, was insupportable. Lord Temple and Mr. Windham condemned the peace as insecure and dishonorable; but the House agreed to address the King in favor of the preliminaries.

When the Russian convention became the subject of parliamentary discussion, Lord Grenville commented on its ambiguity, and on its allowed latitude, as fatal to our claims. In the Commons, Dr. Laurence and Mr. Grey contended, that the dispute still remained undecided, and in the same state, as before the battle of Copenhagen.

A. D. 1802. An alarming mutiny, during the meeting of parliament, broke out in Bantry Bay, in Ireland, from the reluctance of many of our seamen to serve in the West Indies. Twenty of the mutineers were tried by a court martial, at Portsmouth, and 11 of them found guilty.\*

While the impending treaty was yet unratified, no reduction in our national defence was attempted, as the cabinet entertained doubts of the sincerity of the First Consul. But, at length, the treaty was signed at Amiens by the Marquis of Cornwallis and Joseph Bonaparte, varying in some points from the preliminaries. By a new adjustment of boundaries, a part of Portuguese Guiana was ceded to France. Respecting

\* About this time, Lieut. Col. Wall, who, while governor of the island of Goree, had occasioned, by unmerciful flagellation, the death of a serjeant, was brought to trial. Neither his rank, nor the length of time, upwards of nineteen years between the murder and the trial, had any influence on the impartiality of our criminal law. He was convicted, and hanged.

Malta,

Malta, it was determined, that no English or French class of knights should be allowed; that one half of the soldiers should be natives, and the other part Neapolitans; that the independence of the island, under the sway of the knights, should be guaranteed by Great Britain, France, Austria, Spain, Russia, and Prussia, and its ports open to all nations. It was further agreed, that indemnification should be made to the Prince of Orange for his loss of power and property; and that persons hereafter accused of murder, forgery, and fraudulent bankruptcy, should be given up.

The treaty met with a very feeble resistance from parliament. Mr. Windham was its chief opponent. He endeavoured to prove its weakness and insecurity, and to animate the country against the boundless ambition of Gallic monopoly, and the restless spirit of jacobinical machination. Our exertions, he maintained, had by no means been equal to our resources, and we certainly had failed in repelling the danger we

sought to avert. We had suffered the French republic to acquire as great a degree of power in ten years, as the Romans had obtained in several centuries. While we were menaced by Gallic ambition, we ought to be extremely vigilant and alert ; and he would, therefore, move for an address to his Majesty, requesting him to take such measures, both by negotiation, and by naval and military arrangements, for obviating the danger that might arise from such stipulations, or from other circumstances in the present state of affairs. Lord Hawkesbury acknowledged the insatiate aggrandizement of the French republic, but, in his opinion, it was no sufficient reason for a continuance of hostilities. He contended, that the ministers had in all their proceedings, consulted the honor and security of the nation as strenuously, as could be expected from the state of Europe at the time of the impending negotiation. Mr. Dundas disapproved of the surrender of the Cape of Good Hope and of Malta, but refused to sanction Mr. Windham's amendment.

ment. The minister admitted, that the treaty was not of that complexion, as to be received with general exultation, but he could not allow, that it was dishonorable. He had been anxious to procure the best terms, and, in sanctioning those he had obtained, he had yielded to the dictates of prudence. Only 20 members supported Mr. Windham's amendment, while 276 suffrages voted against it. An amendment by Lord Hawkesbury, expressing an approbation of the treaty, was proposed and adopted. A similar motion was made in the Peers by Lord Grenville, for an address of dissatisfaction, but a majority of 196 voted in support of the peace.

Honor, advantage, and security ought to be the leading characteristics in all negotiations. In none of these desirable points have we completely succeeded. The ministers, I grant, had a difficult task to execute ; but it does not appear, that we had greater reason to boast of our present sufficiency of self-defence, than we had prior to the com-



mencement of hostilities. Though our security has been diminished, our resources are by no means unexhausted. By the terror of our naval armament, and a particular attention to insular defence, we may defy the hostile machinations of our implacable enemies.

ANNALS  
OF  
George the Third.

## BOOK V.

FROM THE PEACE OF AMIENS, TO THE  
UNPARRALLELED VICTORY OF  
TRAFALGAR.

A. D. 1802.\* ON the 28th of June, his  
Majesty went to the House of Peers, and

\* In this year died Lord Kenyon, Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench. He succeeded the venerable Earl of Mansfield. His Lordship, to use the words of a distinguished writer, was profound in legal erudition, and of the most determined integrity. He never sacrificed  
his

gave his royal assent to some bills that were presented to him. He then congratulated parliament and the country, on the peace and prosperity his subjects then enjoyed. The parliament was then formally prorogued, and soon after dissolved by proclamation.

The repeal of the income tax was another joyful event to the nation, and the accession of Sweden and Denmark to the convention, already concluded between Great Britain and Russia, afforded additional satisfaction to the public. The munificence of parliament voted £10,000 to Dr. Jenner for the discovery of *Vaccine Inoculation*, and who, in the spirit of philanthropy, had made it public, without stipulating for fee or reward. So highly impressed were many British senators with the merit of Dr. Jenner, and the importance of the discovery, that £20,000 was proposed, as more adequate to the expression of public gratitude. But

his official, to his parliamentary character. The sphere of his particular duty was the great scene of his activity; and though, as a British peer, he never lessened his character, it was as a judge that he thought to aggrandise it.

the

the minister disapproved of so large a sum ; and, on a division in the House, he only carried it by a majority of three. Under a parity of circumstances £1200 was also voted to Mr. Greathead \* for the invention of the *Life Boat*. It appeared, from the testimony of many respectable members, that upwards of 500 lives had been already saved to the community.

His Majesty, as a mark of his royal favor and approbation of Lord Hutchinson's conduct in Egypt, granted him an annuity of £2000 for his own life, and for the lives of

\* Mr. Henry Greathead, the original constructor, was a native of, and a ship carpenter, at South Shields. The following description of the boat will not, I presume, be disagreeable to our readers. The form is of a long spheroid, 30 feet in length, by 12 feet over, either end pointed, and thus calculated to row both ways, an oar serving the purpose of the helm ; about 18 inches below the gunwhale, a strong lining of cork covers the whole of the inside, which gives the boat such a buoyance, as enables it to live in any water. The crew usually consist of 20 men, but the capacity of the boat enables it to receive ten more.

the two next male heirs of his body, to whom the title should descend.

The respect for the virtues and character of Mr. Pitt, and gratitude for his public services, was so universally prevalent, that a subscription for the purpose of erecting a statue of him, was set on foot, and filled to a considerable amount. But, at the solicitation of the ex-minister, who declined such honors in his life-time, the sum was vested in the public funds, in the names of trustees, to accumulate till his demise, and then to be appropriated to the original intention. Though disappointed in manifesting their gratitude, his friends found out another mode of publicly expressing their grateful sentiments. His birth-day was on the 29th of May; upwards of 900 of the most respectable personages in the kingdom, for rank, character, and opulence, assembled at Merchant Taylors'-hall, to celebrate his nativity. Seldom, if ever, was there witnessed on any similar occasion, so much enthusiastic and zealous attachment to any individual, of whatever rank and station, as on this festive meeting.

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The electioneering contests \* were neither numerous, or violent, save in a few instances. In some of these struggles, the scattered and dying embers of jacobinism, were raked together, and every effort made to fan them into flame.

The public were anxious for the arrival of the French ambassador, and for the departure of Lord Whitworth to France. At length, General Andreossi, the long expected ambassador arrived, and some little time after Lord Whitworth took his departure for

\* Westminster and Middlesex, Nottingham and Coventry, are the most distinguished. At Nottingham, the rabble unequivocally manifested their revolutionary principles. The tri-coloured cockade was selected as their favourite emblem; their music was the Marseillois Hymn, *Ca Ira*, and other notorious republican tunes. Similar acts of shameful disorder and disaffection appeared at the Middlesex election. At the close of the poll, Sir Francis Burdett, having a majority of votes, was, in consequence, returned. He was carried in triumphal procession on the shoulders of his fast friends and supporters, to the palace of his Sovereign, and before the royal gates a band of music regaled them with the well-known revolutionary air of *Ca Ira* !!!

France.

France. This long interval between the appointment of the ambassadors, and departure to their respective courts, was not marked with acts of amity and sincerity, or evinced the cordial reconciliation of the two countries; but, on the contrary, doubt and distrust, jealousy and smothered resentment, were too apparent in all the transactions of both governments; nor did the most sanguine asserters of the peace, expect any other consequence from this mutual discontent, save that of renewed hostility.

Thus gloomy was the present aspect of affairs, at the meeting of parliament, which was the first that had been summoned since the union between Great Britain and Ireland. His Majesty appointed commissioners to open the business of the session. The Commons attended to hear the commission read, and retired to choose their speaker. Sir William Scott, after addressing the House in a speech of uncommon neatness, concluded by moving, "That Mr. Abbot be again elected to the discharge of the office of speaker of this House." The Hon. Henry Lascelles

Lascelles seconded the motion, and Mr. Abbot was unanimously elected. On the 29th of November his Majesty came down to the House of Peers, and, the Commons being ordered to attend, he thus addressed his parliament. "In my interference, (says his Majesty,) with foreign powers, I have been actuated by a sincere disposition for the maintenance of peace. It is, nevertheless, impossible for me to lose sight of that established and wise system of policy, by which the interests of other states are connected with our own, and I cannot, therefore, be indifferent to any material change in their relative condition or strength. My conduct will be invariably regulated by a due consideration of the actual situation of Europe, and by a watchful solicitude for the permanent welfare of our people. I contemplate (continues his Majesty) with the utmost satisfaction, the great and increasing benefits produced by that important measure, which has united the interests, and consolidated the resources of Great Britain and Ireland. The improvement and extension of these advantages



tages will be the objects of your unremitting care and attention. The trade and commerce of my subjects, so essential to the support of public credit, and of our maritime strength, will, I am persuaded, receive from you, every possible encouragement ; and you will readily lend your assistance in affording to mercantile transactions, in every part of the United Kingdoms, all the facility and accommodation, that may be consistent with the security of the public revenue. To uphold the honour of the country, to encourage its industry, to improve its resources, and to maintain the true principles of the constitution in church and state, are the great and leading duties, which you are called upon to discharge. In the performance of them you may be assured of my uniform and cordial support ; it being my most earnest wish to cultivate a perfect harmony between me and my parliament, and to promote to the utmost, the welfare of my faithful subjects, whose interest and happiness I shall ever consider, as inseparable from my own."

Lord Arden moved for the address in the  
House

House of Lords, and Mr. Trench, of Galway, in the Commons. His Lordship, after observing the prosperity of our commerce and manufactories, the produce of an abundant harvest, and the spirit of loyalty and attachment to the King and constitution, particularly noticed that part of his Majesty's speech, which referred to the situation of Europe. The order of dominion, continues his Lordship, could not be there indefinitely changed, without endangering the security of this country. Although, in the conclusion of the last war, we had reluctantly abandoned allies, who had neither the power or the will to make a stand for their own political existence; yet there were limits beyond which this plan of conduct could not be extended. He therefore was of opinion, that the House must approve of the resolution of his Majesty, to keep the vigilance of the government awake to the changes in the arrangement of continental powers, and that they would not refuse such supplies as the necessary vigor of such preparation must require. The hero of the Nile, Lord Nelson,

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seconded

seconded the address, and declared his approbation of a plan of government, which promised to maintain the ancient dignity of the country, without hastily throwing away the blessings of peace. War had not exhausted our resources, our national industry had not been slackened, nor had it been frustrated of its rewards. The condition of unexampled prosperity, which the country enjoys, immediately after the late war, is such as would render us inexcusable were we to sacrifice its honor. He had witnessed much of the miseries of war; he had himself seen horrors of human distress which had made an indelible impression on his heart; he was, therefore, in his inmost soul, a man of peace; yet he could not consent, for any peace, however fortunate, to sacrifice one jot of England's honor. Our honor was the most valuable of our interest; it was what had always procured us the respect and regard of the nations on the continent; but, if a restless and unjust ambition in those with whom we wished to be at amity, had given a new alarm, the country would rather press

the government to assert its honor, than shrink from the supplies, which a vigorous state of preparation would necessarily require.

Lord Grenville agreed that the present was a very serious aspect of affairs. The new parliament had assembled at a very awful period, in which the public, doubting of the principles and policy of the present ministers, were anxious to learn whether we were to have peace or war. The interests and happiness of Europe were nearly destroyed by the inordinate ambition of the French government, which was extending its power and influence to the total subversion of the liberties of mankind: it was better, therefore, to meet the perils of war with manly fortitude, than to see with silent indifference the subjugation of Europe. After the signature of the definitive treaty, France pursued the same line of conduct. The ink was scarcely dry with which it was signed, the wax scarcely cold with which it was sealed, when France, in violation of the treaty of Amiens, began to add territory, to territory. Piedmont was the first which fell under its griping

ambition. Had Great Britain, in concert with Russia, remonstrated at the time, France would not have dared to annex it to her empire. France, with her usual cunning, first pretended to occupy Piedmont merely as a military position, but afterwards, she thought fit to annex it to her states. She made a treaty with the King of Sardinia when he was a prisoner in his own capital; but even then, his Majesty had fortitude and fidelity enough to refuse to act hostilely against Great Britain, or to exclude the English from his sea-ports. When we signed the definitive treaty, we by no means acknowledged this right to France, nor had we abandoned our own right of interference for the liberties and interest of Europe. The definitive treaty was signed in March, and ratified in June. In the August following, France took upon herself to regulate and new model the several states of Europe; and so early as the month of August, she set about to new mould the German empire. Our ministers viewed this scene too with the greatest indifference. The  
interests

interests of the Prince of Orange were also sacrificed to the peace of Amiens, in direct violation of the treaty. In the madness of ministers for a hollow peace, they sent out orders to abandon all our conquests: at home they have dismantled the fleet, and disbanded the army, before they had any certain demonstrations of a sincere and permanent peace on the part of France. The war is approaching our own doors, and no man could be absurd enough to suppose, that France will be more favorable to Great Britain, than to Piedmont, Switzerland, &c.

The question was then put, and the address carried without a division.

In the Commons, the Hon. Mr. Trench proposed an address of thanks to his Majesty. He observed, that in a new parliament, which had been the first since the legislative union with Ireland, it was necessary to consider both the important consequences of that event, as well as the change from a state of war, to that of peace. He was of opinion, that his Majesty's ministers would conduct themselves, in relation to con-

tinental affairs, with firmness and moderation ; and, that if peace is not tenable on those grounds, they will have the hearty concurrence and united strength of the whole empire for their support, should war be the necessary alternative. The Hon. Mr. Curzon seconded the address, and concluded, that he perfectly coincided in the sentiments of the honorable mover. Mr. Cartwright agreed with Mr. Trench in thinking the maintenance of peace desirable, but the best means of preserving to the country this inestimable blessing, was to shew ourselves prepared for the extremity of war. After lamenting the fate of Switzerland, he concluded by expressing his concern, that those great talents which had so long withstood the tide of French principles, and upheld the dignity and honor of this country, were not now more actively employed in its defence. Sir John Wrottesley joined the Hon. member who spoke last, in lamenting the secession of those great abilities, which conducted the affairs of this country through all the vicissitudes of the late war ; and, he hoped, they

they would again come forward in defence of the country, should war again become necessary.

The minister contended, that the influence of France upon the Continent, was always greater than ours. There was no period of our history in which the government of this country ever thought it advisable to go to war with France solely for continental objects. He did not wish to lay the country at the feet of France, but he saw a wish in some people to inflame the two countries to hostility, without any indefinite object. He was convinced that war without any indefinite object, was the greatest of all evils, but still he should prefer it at any time, to the sacrifice of our honor. Mr. Fox, Mr. Thos. Grenville, Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Windham, Mr. Whitbread, and other members declared their sentiments on the subject. The address, however, was carried without a division.

The committee of the supplies now brought forward their resolutions; they proposed 50,000 seamen, including 12,000 marines,



and for the military establishment, 129,000 men. To meet the expense, the minister calculated the land and malt tax at £2,750,000; the surplus of the consolidated fund he estimated according to the produce of the three last quarters, £7,845,000; lottery, £500,000; contribution of the East India company, £500,000; total £11,595,000; a sum which would have a clear overplus of upward of £1,000,000. These resolutions were agreed to, and the report ordered on the next day. After some trifling observations, the resolutions were agreed to without a division.

Soon after the recess, a message was brought from his Majesty to both Houses of Parliament, recommending the present situation of the Prince of Wales to their consideration: the message was accordingly attended to: but, prior to its discussion, an address of congratulation to his Majesty, on his escape from the machinations of traitors, was voted in both Houses. In the House of Lords, it was moved by the Duke of Montrose, who felt it unnecessary to make many prefatory observations, as there could but be one sentiment

ment in that House : it was a rooted enmity to our happy constitution, that instigated the traitors to conspire against the life of one of the best and most amiable princes, who had ever filled the English throne ; and who, for the many substantial benefits conferred upon his subjects, deserved their gratitude more than any former King, who had ever swayed the sceptre of these realms. He concluded, by moving an address, expressive of personal attachment and loyalty, and a determination to support the constitution and government of the country. Lord Camden seconded the motion for the address, and expressed his horror at the conspiracy ; which evidently originated from those jacobine principles which had done so much mischief in France, but which had been successfully resisted in this country, and in Ireland. The address was then ordered to be presented by the whole House.

On the same day in the Commons, Lord Euston, after describing very forcibly the horrors which would ensue, from the government of the country being transferred from its  
con-

constitutional defenders, to a set of men not far removed from savages, as were the majority of the conspirators ; he declared he felt a pleasure which language could not describe, at seeing that our beloved monarch, still lived and reigned in the hearts and affections of the great majority of his people. He then moved an address, similar to that passed in the Lords, which was seconded by Lord Boyle, and carried unanimously.

The conspiracy which gave rise to this solemn testimony of the affection of both Houses of Parliament, to the person of our excellent Sovereign ; and which was followed by similar addresses from all parts of the kingdom, was, perhaps, the most extraordinary, that has ever been recorded in the historic page. Its objects were incontestibly established by the clearest evidence, to have been no less than the *seizure of the person of the King, compassing his death, and dethroning him*. For these purposes, combinations of small societies of disaffected persons, were established in different quarters of London, and in its vicinity. Engagements were entered

tered into, and oaths administered to all, who could be seduced to join the confederacy. To effect these flagitious purposes, the seduction of the soldiery was in various instances attempted, and in some few cases, successful. The 16th of November, the day on which the King first intended to meet his parliament, was the day fixed for the execution of their infernal purposes. Colonel Despard was the principal in this conspiracy; he was of a respectable family, and a native of Ireland; had been bred to arms from his youth, and had distinguished himself by his courage and good conduct. The testimony of Lord Nelson, and Sir Alured Clarke, no incompetent judges of merit, bore honorable testimony to his conduct and character, while employed with, or under them; nay, it was proved, that the preservation of a valuable British possession was entirely owing to his exertion and intrepidity: such was the leader and first mover of this diabolical conspiracy. After a trial which lasted eighteen hours, the jury brought in their verdict guilty. On the succeeding day,  
nine

nine of his accomplices were convicted on nearly the same evidence, and three acquitted. Despard, and six of his associates, three being reprieved, were executed at the top of the new gaol in the borough of Southwark. The greater part of the criminals died with the utmost penitence and decorum; but the unhappy principal, even to the last moment, adhered to the opinions he had hitherto maintained, and obstinately rejected the spiritual assistance that was assiduously tendered, and of which his fellow sufferers eagerly participated. Thus terminated a conspiracy,\* unexampled in the annals of history, for the extent of its designs, when contrasted with the weakness and paucity of its means.

### Addresses

\* Despard, and 30 of the conspirators, sitting in full convention, and assembled for treasonable purposes, were arrested at the Oakley Arms public-house, in Oakley-street, Lambeth, on the 16th of November. Despard met some of the seduced soldiery, and others of the conspirators, this evening, for the first time. He now freely discoursed on his traitorous designs, and the best mode of putting them into execution: that the intercepting

Addresses from both Houses of Parliament, from the clergy, the laity, and the corporate bodies of the kingdom, poured in upon the Sovereign on this joyful occasion.

A. D. 1803. His Majesty's message, respecting the Prince of Wales, now became the subject of parliamentary discussion, and the result was an investigation by a committee of the whole house. After numberless debates, an annuity of £60,000 for three years, was the final settlement of this important business.

The next communication from his Majesty announced, "That considerable military preparations were carrying on in the ports of France and Holland, and that it was therefore expedient to adopt additional means of precaution to the security of our dominions."

tercepting and shooting the King on his way to the parliament house was then discussed, as well as the probable difficulties attending such a plan ; on which he used the remarkable expression, "*If nobody else will shoot him, I will ;*" adding, "*I have well weighed the matter, and my heart is callous.*" Every other part of the design was then adverted to, and freely debated.

The

The sensation, which attended his Majesty's communication, was great, beyond description, and all agreed that it was the forerunner of hostilities. In the House of Peers Lord Hobart moved for the address, which, after some observations from Lord Westmorland and Lord Auckland, in support of the motion, passed without a division. The minister, in person, moved for the address in the Commons; He was convinced that the appeal made by his Majesty to the wisdom and public spirit of the House would not be in vain. He hoped still for the continuance of peace, but should that be impossible, every communication that could throw light upon the subject, should unreservedly be produced. The objects of the present preparations, continued the minister, were for precaution and internal security, and not for offensive operations. He concluded by moving an address, and promising to support his Majesty agreeable to the purport of the Royal message.

Violent and interesting debates ensued, but the address was unanimously voted. On the

the succeeding day, a message was delivered by the minister, expressing his Majesty's desire of embodying and calling out the militia of the united kingdom ; and soon after the House formed itself into a committee of supply. Mr. Garthshore moved for 10,000 additional seamen, including 34,000 marines. Mr. Francis contended, that he should not have objected had the proposed naval force been much larger ; the House had by their address, performed their duty to their Sovereign ; but, before they pledged themselves to support him, they should allow ministers to construe that pledge, as one of supporting their measures. Personally, he was neither an enemy or competitor to his Majesty's ministers ; he bore a great regard for many, and ill-will to none of them ; but still, he thought they were highly responsible for their conduct. By the treaty of Amiens we had paid a high price for peace ; and yet, in fact, we never had obtained it ; instead of peace, we gained a hollow truce, and the consequence, a renewal of hostilities at greater expence and disadvantage, than if the peace had never been



been made. He therefore considered it neither safe nor politic, to trust the management of a war to the hands of those, who evinced so little ability in making the peace. It was a melancholy consideration, that at such an eventful period, all the eminent abilities of the country were excluded from its councils and government. In fair weather, a moderate share of skill might be sufficient, but for the storm, abler pilots should be provided. Mr. Addington replied, that he was at a loss to conceive how the honorable gentleman who spoke last, could now accuse, for weakness and incapacity, an administration, which he declared had always enjoyed his confidence ; though, almost in the same breath, he asserts it to be his opinion, that all the ability of the country are excluded from it. Himself and associates felt the great responsibility under which they acted : They had been uniformly consistent in the principle which had induced them to advise his Majesty to conclude the peace ; they sincerely wished its continuance ; but, should the war be unhappily renewed, he was convinced, that even then,

then, they should be able to prove their consistency, and justify themselves to the country. After many able speeches on both sides, the resolution was voted without a division.

In the Peers, Lord Pelham communicated to the House, that his Majesty had given orders to Lord Whitworth, that if he could not, against a certain period, conclude the negotiation now pending, that he should immediately quit Paris: General Andreossi, the French ambassador, had also applied for a passport to enable him to leave London, as soon as he should be informed of Lord Whitworth's leaving Paris. He accordingly moved for an adjournment till Monday; and a similar motion was made in the Commons, and agreed to.

On the 16th of May, a message was presented from his Majesty to both Houses, informing them, that he had recalled his ambassador \* from France, and that the French ambassador

\* After a feverish interval of *one year and sixteen days*, did Europe again see her quiet disturbed, and her tranquillity threatened by the renewal of a contest  
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bassador had left London. Lord Pelham moved, in the House of Lords, that the message should be taken into consideration on that day se'nnight, as it would require some time before the necessary papers could be got ready, and also time for their Lordships to consider their contents. The consideration of the message was fixed for the ensuing Monday. Accordingly, on Monday, the day appointed for the discussion of the causes of the war, and on the conduct of ministers in the negotiation, all the avenues to the House of Commons\* were crowded at an early hour ; the subject

between her greatest continental, and her greatest maritime power ; in which sooner or later, her other states must most probably be embarked : a contest, in which neither of the belligerent countries had any definite object ; — whose means of mutual annoyance were as unlimited as their rancour and enmity were boundless ; and to which, of consequence, no period could be affixed even in ideal

\* The public curiosity was so great to hear these interesting debates, that the galleries were filled at an early hour, and that none of those persons, who are accustomed to repeat the parliamentary proceedings, could gain admission : so that a very imperfect sketch of this interesting discussion could only be procured.

was of such importance, that we seldom witnessed so much anxiety to be present at any debate.

Lord Pelham in the Peers opened the business ; after enumerating the repeated acts of aggression, and insult on the part of France, concluded by moving an address to his Majesty expressive of the sense the House entertained of the anxious desire shewn by his Majesty for the preservation of the peace ; their regret that France had not manifested the same principles ; their indignation at the spirit of encroachment exhibited by France, and the reliance which his Majesty might place in their support and assistance. The Duke of Cumberland seconded the motion ; but Lord King proposed an amendment, " that those expressions should be expunged, which so warmly imputed to France, the guilt of breaking the treaties." Lord Ellenborough opposed the amendment. After many able speeches for, and against the amendment, Lord King's motion was lost by a majority of 132. On the same day a similar motion was made in the Commons;

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and

and animated debates ensued. Mr. Grey moved an amendment to the address, but on a division, there appeared 67 votes for the amendment, and 398 against. The original motion was then put, and carried.

Mr. Yorke, secretary of war, now brought forward some of the estimates of the army. He stated, that but a small augmentation was intended in the regular force.

Soon after, the Chancellor of the Exchequer opened his budget. He proposed certain war taxes, that would expire six months after the definitive treaty. By an increase on the customs, duties on sugar, exports, cotton, and tonnage, about £2,000,000 annually; and by new duties on tea, wine, spirits, and malt, he calculated on £6,000,000 more. He then presented a plan of a tax on property and income which he estimated at £4,700,000, making in the whole £12,700,000, to expire six months after a peace. The Chancellor also communicated a message from his Majesty, "that he conceived it necessary, that a large additional force should be forthwith raised and assembled."

bled." Addresses were voted to his Majesty for the message.

On the 28th of July his Majesty informed parliament, " that a treasonable and rebellious spirit of insurrection had manifested itself in Ireland, which had been marked by circumstances of peculiar atrocity in the city of Dublin ; his Majesty therefore recommended parliament to adopt the necessary measures for its suppression. Lord Hobart said, that it was with feelings of the utmost regret, that he called their lordship's attention to the violent and disgraceful outrages lately committed in Ireland, and particularly to the most barbarous murder of Lord Kilwarden :\* an address for his Majesty's gracious communication was proposed and carried.

The stability of the administration, which concluded the treaty of Amiens, was under-

\* Lord Kilwarden was chief justice of his Majesty's Court of King's Bench in Ireland, and a member of the privy council. He was met in Thomas street Dublin by a desperate gang of ruffians, dragged from his carriage, together with his nephew the Rev. Richard Wolfe, and both of them inhumanly murdered.

stood to depend on the experience, which the country might have of the real merits of that memorable transaction. The extent of the sacrifices, by which peace had been purchased, now began to be more generally regretted; in proportion as it was more fully understood; but credit was, for the most part, given to the assurances of its permanency, and repeatedly so, from authority. But when it became manifest, even to the ministers themselves, that war was inevitable, their own situation was as much changed, as that of the country. Difficulties multiplied by the continual reference to the errors of their past conduct. Thus circumstanced, it was natural that ministers should look to some means of strengthening themselves in parliament, and of retrieving the ground they had lost in the estimation of the public. To Mr. Pitt were their overtures first made, but his arrangements differed so widely from those of the present cabinet, that they were declared to be inadmissible; and here the whole negotiation is said to have dropped. Some changes

changes in administration, however, did take place.\*

We shall not pretend to enter into any investigation of the merits of administration as it now stood; but we can safely assert, that towards the conclusion of the year, the nation seemed heartily tired of an experimental government, composed of *moderate men, of moderate abilities*, raised from the middling classes of society; and who, as they were avowedly without any other claim to public favor, save of *that of good intentions*, so did it seem, that they were determined to confine themselves to that line of conduct, which could be exactly bounded by such pretensions.

The English nation were so exasperated at the haughty tone of France, that an unanimous disposition pervaded all the classes of

\* Lord Pelham resigned the situation of one of the principal secretaries of state, and was succeeded by Mr. C. Yorke, secretary at war; and Mr. Bragge was appointed secretary at war. Mr. Tierney was nominated treasurer of the navy; and some of the inferior seats at the Treasury and other public boards were allotted to Messrs. Bond, Golding, and General Maitland; and Lord Hawkesbury was called up to the House of Peers.



society to bear any hardships, or make any sacrifice, rather than suffer their country to crouch at the proud foot of the tyrant of France. In a few months, a volunteer army of 300,000 effective men appeared to start from the earth for the defence of their native land. Expeditions also took place against the Dutch settlements of Demerara and Issequibo, and against the French Islands of St. Lucie and Tobago. St. Domingo, the most valuable colony the French ever possessed, was wrested from them by the Nigritian natives, assisted by a British squadron; and in the East Indies, our successes over the native princes were brilliant and glorious. The reduction of the island of St. Domingo was beyond doubt the severest blow which France sustained in the course of the year, General Rochambeau, and the remains of that formidable army, which had been judged sufficient to re-conquer the colony, were obliged to surrender prisoners of war to the naval force of Great Britain.

General Greenfield assaulted and carried by storm the Island of St. Lucie; and by capitulation

capitulation, the island of Tobago. The Dutch settlements of Berbice and Demerara were also subjugated in the course of the present year.

The inveterate enemy of Great Britain, however friendly his apparent pretensions, was ever alive to the means of embarrassing its government, by feeding and inflaming the discontents in Ireland. In the early part of the year, judges were sent by special commission to try the disturbers of the public peace in the counties of Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford. The principals of this new plot, were Emmett,\* Russell, and Quigly,

Emmett

\* Emmett had been so unguarded in his conduct when the late disturbances existed, as to become an object of the vigilance of government, and had thought it advisable to emigrate to France, during the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act; but, on the suspension being removed, he returned to Ireland. His mind was ardent, his imagination brilliant, and he possessed a flow of eloquence ever consistent with the correctness of legitimate oratory: He was now only in the 24th year of his age, and, as he was concerned in the former conspiracy, he must, so early as eighteen, have been initiated in the baneful nature of treason and conspiracy. Russell was the son of an offi-

Emmett and Russell were tried and executed, but Quigley and many other conspirators that were in custody were spared, on making a full disclosure of the unknown circumstances of the treason.

The situation of Europe at the close of this year may be thus stated. While France was extending her gigantic arms from the Adriatic to the Baltic, and scorned to bound her dominions on the north by the Rhine, or even the Elbe; Germany seemed lost in apathy, or the sluggishness of despair! Italy was directly governed as a province of France, while Spain, Portugal, and the Hanse Towns, were

peer of reputation in his Majesty's service, and enjoyed an honorable retreat as master of the Royal Hospital for Veterans at Kilmainham near Dublin. The son was placed early in the army, and had served at Bunker's Hill and the subsequent campaigns in America. At the close of the war he either retired on half pay, or his corps was reduced. He took up his residence in a town of considerable trade in the north of Ireland. In justice however to his memory, it must be observed, that he was affectionate and tender hearted, and more of the gentleman, than is usually found in the confirmed democrat.

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necessitated to furnish such contributions, as were demanded by the French government.

A. D. 1804. The uncommon pressure of public business, as well as the formidable menaces on the Gallic shores, induced the minister, after a short recess of little more than three months, to call parliament together. They accordingly met on the 22d of November, and his Majesty, in his speech, after acknowledging the wisdom of parliament in providing the necessary supplies, paid a high compliment to the volunteer corps, and extolled our West Indian conquests. In adverting to the menaced invasion, his Majesty expressed his determination, to share the exertions and dangers of his people in the defence of his kingdom. To the activity and valor of his fleets and armies, and to the zeal and unconquerable spirit of his faithful subjects, he confided the honor of his crown, and all the valuable interests embarked in the contest. He concluded, by expressing his firm conviction, that if the enemy should hazard an invasion, the consequence to them would be discomfiture, confusion and disgrace,

grace, and to this country, the solid and permanent advantage of fixing its independence on the basis of acknowledged strength, the result of its own tried energy and resources.

The Marquis of Sligo moved the address in the House of Lords, and the Earl of Limerick seconded it. The address was carried unanimously. In the Commons, the Honorable Cropley Ashley made a similar motion, which was also agreed to.

Sir Philip Stevens moved in the committee of supply, that 100,000 seamen be voted for the present year, and also a bill, for the further restriction on the Bank of England from the issue of specie, both of which were agreed to. Sir William Scott brought forward his Clerical Residence Bill, and on the minister's motion, the house voted 8000*l.* as a temporary relief to those curates, who were deprived of their cures by the operation of the bill.

Mr. Secretary Yorke moved for the further suspension of the Irish Habeas Corpus Act, and also for the enactment of the National Law Bill. He declared, that it was with great regret he felt himself obliged to perform this  
painful

painful duty ; but that it was the misfortune of the times in which it was our lot to live, that we were not permitted to enjoy our lives, our liberties, and our fortunes, without being daily called upon to make sacrifices of some of our valuable privileges. Able and animated debates ensued, but both the bills passed the Commons, and, after a feeble opposition in the Lords, they finally passed into laws.

Mr. Bragge, Secretary at War, now brought forward the army estimates : as they differed very little from those of the last year, it was unnecessary to trouble the House on the respective items. The proposed number of men was 273,149, exclusive of 22,897 for India. The charges of such an army, he estimated at £10,901,755 ; for the volunteer corps, he computed the expense at 730,000, besides the additional expense of the general staff, in consequence of the number of brigade officers employed to discipline and train them. The accounts of the barrack departments were not yet ready, but they would exceed those of former years, owing to the

the expense of preparing winter cantonments for the soldiers on the coast.

It is our duty, however painful, to notice the indisposition of our beloved Sovereign. The alarm and consternation, which pervaded the whole kingdom, may be more easily conceived, than expressed. The awful visitation of 1789 presented itself with increased apprehension. Twelve days after the official notification of his Majesty's illness, the first *bulletin* appeared; but it held out no favourable termination of a speedy recovery: of this tendency, with very little variation, were the bulletins till March, when they assumed a more decided tone, and soon after, they confidently announced his Majesty's daily recovery.—The declaration of the minister in the Commons, *That there was no necessary suspension of the royal functions*; and also of the Chancellor in] the Peers, *That the lords commissioners were warranted in expressing the royal assent to several bills, which had already passed through both houses of parliament*, considerably tended to allay the public ferment, and restore tranquillity to his Majesty's

Majesty's affectionate and loyal subjects. Soon after, our gracious Sovereign, to the inexpressible satisfaction of the inhabitants of the metropolis, drove through the principal streets of London and Westminster, attended by his royal consort, and some of the princesses.

On the 9th of March, the royal assent was given by commission to several public and private bills: but, prior to the reading of the commission, Earl Fitzwilliam expressed his doubts of his Majesty's health being competent to his re-assumption of the regal functions. The Lord Chancellor declared, that from the personal interview and conversation he had with his Majesty on the subject of the pending bills, he was convinced in his own mind, that the lords commissioners were warranted in expressing the royal assent.

Both houses of parliament met on the fifth of April. In the Lords, the Volunteer Consolidated Bill went through the committee, which engrossed the attention of the house for some days. Several amendments were proposed by many opposition lords, but they  
were



were generally negatived without a division. On the 11th of May, the Marquis of Stafford rose in the House of Lords, and said, that as he had been informed that a new administration had taken place, which, though not formed on the broad and extensive basis \* that he could have wished, yet as it included a Right Hon. Gentleman, W. Pitt, he should withdraw his motion, of which he had formerly given notice. On the 12th of May it was publicly announced, that Mr. Addington had resigned, and that Mr. Pitt had been appointed his successor, and on the 18th of May,

\* On the resignation of Mr. Addington, the alarming danger of the country had produced a general call for the union and co-operation of all the united talents in the kingdom. This sentiment had been echoed by every party, and by every description of people, and it was the prevalent wish, that all political differences should be swallowed up in a general exertion for the common cause. Whatever private predilections were rumoured to prevail in *any quarter*, it appears from repeated assertions of Mr. Pitt, that no man was more strenuous for the formation of a government, embracing all the united eminent talents of the nation ; and it is no secret to some of the highest circles in the kingdom, that Mr. Pitt, on the resignation of

May, Mr. Pitt took his seat in the Commons, upon being re-elected for the University of Cambridge.

The Minister now brought forward his plan for the military defence of the country. After many animated debates, leave was given, the bill introduced, and read a second time. On the 6th of June Mr. Whitbread made a motion for papers, in order to give the House information, respecting the conduct of the Lord Advocate in Scotland, towards a Mr. Morrison, a farmer in Bamffshire. Morrison had a servant, who, contrary to his desire, joined the volunteers, for which he discharged him. The servant laid

if Mr. Addington, was anxiously desirous that Lord Grenville and Mr. Fox should form a part of the new administration, and pressed their admission in that quarter, where only such earnestness could be effectual; conceiving, the forming a strong government, as important to the public welfare, and as calculated to call forth the united talents, as well as the utmost resources of the empire; in which endeavour he persisted, till within a few months of his death. I am well aware of the delicacy of such a statement, but I am bold in the certainty of its truth.

his case before the Lord Advocate, who severely reprobated the conduct of Morrison. He advised the sheriff of Bamff, in case of invasion, to arrest and imprison Morrison, and, should his property be pillaged by the enemy, that the sheriff should do all in his power to prevent Morrison from obtaining any compensation. Having forcibly dwelt on the tyrannical conduct of the Lord Advocate, he moved for a copy of the public records of the county of Bamff. After some observations from Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox, the motion was agreed to.

The first important military operation this year, was the capture of the English settlement of Goree, on the coast of Africa, by a small French detachment. This conquest, however, did not long remain in the hands of the enemy. It was retaken by Capt. Dixon, of the Inconstant frigate, with the assistance of some sloops, and a store ship. Early in the spring a heavy calamity occurred, by the loss of the Apollo frigate, Capt. Dixon; she had sailed from the Cove of Cork in company with the Carysfort frigate, and sixty-nine

nine sail of merchantmen bound for the West Indies. The Apollo, and part of her convoy, went on shore, and with difficulty twenty-nine of them were saved, and proceeded with the Carysfort alone. This disastrous event has never been fairly accounted for; but whether private or public mismanagement, certain it is, that the loss of a fine frigate, her Captain, many of her officers, and sixty of her crew, with forty sail of merchant ships, richly laden, and more than five-hundred seamen, fell into the hands of the enemy.

Commodore Sir Sidney Smith made an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the junction of the enemy's flotilla from Flushing, with that of Ostend. The failure principally originated from the want of gun-boats, which, from the shallowness of the water, could alone act against the enemy with effect.\*

Intelligence,

\* About this time an attempt was made on that part of the French flotilla, which lay at anchor in the road of Boulogne, by Capt. Owen, of the *Immortalité* frigate, some sloops and cutters, but with no great share of suc-

Intelligence, however, of a more pleasing nature, was received from the Leeward Islands ; it announced the capture of the valuable Dutch island of Surinam, and with very little loss. Besides the conquest of the island, a frigate of 32 guns, a sloop of war of 18 guns, and an immense quantity of ammunition, ordnance, and stores, fell into the hands of the victors.

It would be unpardonable not to notice a most gallant action of Captain Dance, of the Earl Camden Indiaman, who, acted as commodore to a valuable fleet of fifteen homeward bound Indiamen. Capt. Dance was met by Admiral Linois' squadron, consisting of one ship of the line, three frigates, and a brig. Fearful that his rear might be cut off, he made the signal to attack, and bear down on the enemy's squadron, and engage them in succession : a partial conflict took place, but, before the three leading

cess. Captain Oliver, of the *Melpomene* frigate, was equally unsuccessful upon the enemy's vessels in Havre Pier ; some damage, however, was done to the town, by the shells and carcasses thrown into it.

ships

ships could well come into action, the enemy's squadron hauled their wind, and stood away to the eastward, with all the sail they could raise. The gallant Commodore made a signal for a general chase, and pursued his dastardly foe for two hours, to the indelible disgrace of the French, and to the immortal honour of the British Navy. \*

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\* In consequence of this brilliant action, the committee of the Patriotic Fund at Lloyd's met, and determined the following rewards :—to Captain Dance, a vase and a sword, each of £100 value. A sword and vase of the same value to Capt. Timmins, of the Royal George, and a sword of £50 was ordered to all the other Captains, and also a sword of £50 to Lieut. Fowler, of the Royal Navy, for his services on the occasion ; and on the following day, the Directors of the East India Company voted to the commanders, officers, and seamen, the following sums :—to Capt. Dance, 2000 guineas, and a piece of plate, valued 200—To Capt. Timmins, 1000 guineas, and a piece of plate of 100 guineas—To Capt. Moffatt, 500 guineas, and a piece of plate of 100 guineas.—To Captains Wilson, Farquharson, Torin, Clarke, Moriton, Wordsworth, Kirkpatrick, Hamilton, Farrer, Prendergrast, Browne, Larmins, and Lockner, 500 guineas each, and a piece of plate of 50 guineas to each.—To the chief Officers, 150 guineas each ; to second and third

The last memorable transaction of this year, was the capture of four homeward bound Spanish treasure ships, by Capt. Moore, of the *Indefatigable*, and three other frigates. Capt. Moore, detached from the Channel Fleet, for the purpose, fell in with four large Spanish frigates, off Cadiz. He hailed them, to induce them to shorten sail, but without effect ; he therefore fired upon them a parley ensued: Capt. Moore informed the Spanish Commander, that he had orders to detain his squadron, and wished to enforce them, without proceeding to extremities. The answer was unsatisfactory, and an

125 guineas ; and to the fifth and sixth 50 guineas each. To pursers and surgeons, 80 guineas each ; mates, boat-swains, gunners, and carpenters, 50 guineas each ; midshipmen, 30 guineas ; petty officers, 15 guineas each ; seamen, ordinary seamen, and servants, six guineas each ; and to Lieut. Fowler, a passenger in the *Camden*, for his services to Capt. Dance, during the action, 300 guineas for a piece of plate. The whole remuneration little short of £50,000 !!! The value of the fleet, thus gallantly preserved, as estimated by the super-cargoes, including private, as well as public investments, appear to be upwards of £8,000,000, sterling.

engagement

engagement followed. Within ten minutes, one of the Spanish frigates blew up; and in less than half an hour, two more surrendered, and the fourth, after an attempt to escape, was captured. The ships\* were found to be of immense value, principally laden with dollars, in gold and silver, and precious merchandise, the produce of Spanish America.

The events of the present year are so unimportant, save those between England and France, that little remains to be noticed, excepting the violent, arbitrary and unprecedented conduct of the French consul. Austria appeared actively employed in repairing the losses her armies had sustained in the

\* A most melancholy circumstance attended the explosion of the Spanish frigate. A native of Spain was returning from America with his family, consisting of his lady, five sons and four daughters, all grown up, and with a large fortune, the savings of twenty-five years of industry. Prior to the action, the father and one of the sons, was removed to one of the largest ships, and in a few minutes, saw the horrid spectacle of his whole family, and all his treasure, surrounded with flames, and sinking in the abyss of the merciless ocean.



late war, and in placing her military establishment on the best possible footing.

In France a plot\* was discovered, for the assassination of Bonaparte, and to effect a

\* The principals in this conspiracy were Pichegreu, Georges Cadondal, formerly a leader of the insurgents in Brittany, Lajollais, and other individuals. General Moreau was implicated in the plot, as having had some secret meetings with Pichegreu since his return from England. Moreau, Lajollais, and others, were apprehended, but Pichegreu and Georges, though known to be in Paris, escaped, for the present, the vigilance of the police. After a short respite, they were however apprehended. Moreau, though found guilty of the charges brought against him, by the tribunal before which he was tried, was pardoned on condition of retiring to America. The conspiracy thus crushed, and the principals safe in custody. Bonaparte determined to get rid of one of the Bourbon Princes. The violation of an independent, but weak potentate, was no impediment, and, but a trifling consideration in the eyes of Bonaparte, compared with the sacrifice of so illustrious and so formidable a victim. He accordingly ordered a body of cavalry to cross the Rhine in the night, under the command of General Caulincourt, one of his aides-de-camp, and to proceed to Ettenheim, in the electorate of Baden, and to seize the Duke D'Enghien, and several other individuals. The duke was immediately conveyed to Paris, the distance

counter revolution. Deputations from the Senate, the Legislative Body, and the Tribunate,

waited

tance of 400 miles, without the smallest intermission, and conducted to the Temple, a prison, where so many of the Royal Family had suffered such atrocious cruelties. But even here, he had no repose, but was hurried away to the castle of Vincennes, where a tribunal, under the appellation of a special military commission, composed of creatures devoted to Bonaparte and selected by his brother-in-law, Murat, governor of Paris, had been convened at nine in the evening; almost exhausted for want of rest and nourishment, he was forced into the presence of his judges, who in the course of two hours, tried and convicted him. No evidence was produced upon the trial, (a mere formality) prefatory to the execution of a sentence virtually pronounced by the order for the prince's arrestation. During the whole of this distressing scene, the duke displayed the greatest calmness and fortitude. Four *Gens d'armes* were posted in the dungeon, where he was confined. In the course of the night, General Murat arrived at Vincennes under an escort of Mamelukes, and accompanied by four aides-de-camp. The castle was surrounded and guarded by Italian troops of *Gens d'armes*. The duke, on being informed of his sentence calmly replied, *I am ready and resigned*. At the place of execution he lifted up his hands to heaven, exclaiming, *May God preserve my king, and deliver my country from the yoke of a foreigner* :

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waited upon the Consul, deprecated the conspiracy, and attributed it solely to the instigation of England.

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of nine who fired, seven hit him, two bullets pierced his head, and five his body. A coffin, with lime, was ready to receive his corpse, and a grave had been dug in the garden of the castle, where he was interred. Thus perished in the prime of life the only son of the Duc de Bourbon, a prince who inherited all the virtues of the illustrious house of Condé!!! This tragical scene had scarce closed, when another intrigue was announced. Mr. Drake, the British envoy to the court of Munich, was accused of a clandestine correspondence with certain disaffected individuals in France, in order to effect a counter-revolution. Mr. Drake in consequence was under the necessity of quitting the Bavarian territories, and Mr. Spencer Smith, the British envoy to the Elector of Wurtemberg, implicated in these transactions, was also obliged to leave Stutgard.

Sir Thomas Rumbolt, the British chargé d'affaires to the circle of Lower Saxony, was seized by a party of French troops, in consequence of orders by the French minister of the police, and conveyed, with all his papers, to Paris. On his arrival, he was confined in the Temple and detained for two nights and two days. At length he was discharged on a promise not to return to Ham-  
burgh, nor to within a certain distance of the French territories. There is every reason to believe, that his deliverance was owing to the prompt and spirited de-  
mand

Unfortunately for mankind, Bonaparte has such numerous accomplices in guilt, whose fortunes, and perhaps existence, depend upon the upholding his authority, and who are perfectly in possession of governing that abject people, that it will require more than an ordinary course of events, and a prodigious reverse of fortune, to shake his power.

The crown of France had been long the object of Bonaparte's ambition. The regrets of the people for their ancient monarchy, rendered indeed any system of government approaching to it, even in the person of the First Consul, to a certain degree not unpalatable. The first decided step, towards the accomplishment of this long preconceived measure, was an address to the Consul, proposing to appoint him hereditary Emperor of France. This was followed by numerous fulsome addresses from the armies, and principal cities. A proposition was soon after submitted to the Tribunal by one of the

mand made by Prussia in his behalf. His papers, however, have been detained.

Consul's

Consul's creatures for conferring on Napoleon Bonaparte, the rank and title of *Emperor of the French*, and of making the said rank and title hereditary in his family, according to the laws of primogeniture. This measure was finally adopted, and a decree, denominated an *organic senatus consultum*, was passed, conferring the title of emperor on the First Consul, and establishing that dignity hereditary in his family.

The assumption of the Imperial dignity by Bonaparte, gave a new interest to the political concerns of Europe. The Emperor of Germany, as soon as the event was known in Vienna, determined to confer the hereditary dignity of Emperor on the House of Austria.

We must now draw the attention of our readers to the events in India. No sooner had the great and comprehensive exertions of the Marquis of Wellesley, Governor-General of India, annihilated the throne of the Mysorean usurper, and recovered the Nizam from the dangerous and increasing influence of the French in the Deccan, than a considerable

derable degree of internal commotion prevailed in the vast empire of the Mahratta States. After a series of well-contested conflicts, mostly in favor of the Company's troops, a treaty was concluded with the Mahratta princes, and peace proclaimed throughout the British Empire in India. This glorious event was productive of the most enthusiastic joy in every part of the Company's dominion of Hindostan, and with public rejoicings in every town and settlement. The inhabitants of Calcutta, who had the best opportunity of witnessing the unwearied solicitude of the Marquis of Wellesley for the public interest, presented him an address, expressive of their intire approbation of the justice and necessity of the war; their admiration of the plan of the campaign, the heroic energy with which it was carried on, and the wise, humane, and liberal policy which dictated the conditions of peace. Not satisfied with this public testimony of their esteem, they afterwards voted a marble statue to be erected at Calcutta, as a memorial of his services. It was also agreed to

present swords of considerable value to Generals Lake and Wellesley, as testimonials of their distinguished merit, so visible in the late campaign. At home, the thanks of Parliament were voted to the Governor-General, and to the Commanders, Officers, and Soldiers of the several armies, who had shared in the glory of the contest. His Majesty was also pleased to create General Lake a Peer of the realm, and General Wellesley a Knight of the Bath.

A. D. 1805. Parliament met unusually late this year: on the 15th January His Majesty went in state to the House of Peers, and the Commons attending, he delivered a most gracious speech from the throne. After the usual formalities, the address was proposed; a good deal of altercation ensued, and on a promise on the part of administration, that the papers connected with several points in His Majesty's speech would be presented on an early day, the address was voted, as was also a similar one in the Commons. Sir Evan Nepean moved for a farther suspension of the Habeas Corpus

pus Act in Ireland ; on a division there appeared for the original motion a majority of 79. The discussion on the rupture with Spain was the subject of warm debates in both Houses. Lord Mulgrave arose, and after adverting to the French and Spanish treaty of 1761, commonly called the Family Compact, and the late treaty concluded at St. Ildenfonso, he contended that England, after the rupture with France, was anxious to interfere as little as possible with the terms of the treaty until war with France became inevitable. He noticed the vague and evasive answers of the Spanish envoy to the remonstrances of our ambassador. It was no secret to our cabinet, that French soldiers were clandestinely allowed to march through Spain, and that naval armaments were to a certain extent going forward : He then noticed the menaces against our ally Portugal ; the sale of prizes, little short of piracy ; the armaments of Ferrol, and the evasive answers of M. D'Andunga to declare the real state of its engagements with France, till the arrival of its treasure. The detention of the  
Spanish



Spanish frigates made no ground of the war, and was not even known at Madrid, till the departure of the British minister. Lord Spencer proposed an amendment, strongly censuring the negligent and undecided councils, which marked the whole of these proceedings: on a division there appeared for the amendment 36, and for the original motion 114, majority 78. This important and interesting subject was discussed on the same day in the Commons, and produced long and animated debates. Mr. Pitt moved for the address in the Commons: He took a retrospective view of the aspect of our relation, and the progress of the discussions with Spain, previous to the war. The treaty of St. Ildenfonso, made Spain *ipso facto* a principal in the war, and the more so, as the offensive provisions were specifically directed to England: By that treaty, they bound themselves to assist each other with their whole power if the stipulated succours\* should be insufficient.

\* Spain refused to give any explanation of the amount of the pecuniary subsidy, but from every information  
Mr.

ficient. The capture of the frigates, he said, made no part of the case, as we should have been equally at war, had it never happened. Mr. Grey, in an elaborate speech, combated most of the positions laid down by the minister: he admitted the hostile character of the treaty of St. Ildenfonso, but deprecated the abuse of the principle of war, which that treaty yielded. He contended, that Spain had in no instance directly violated the neutrality; that it all along manifested pacific dispositions, and that the capture of the Spanish frigates was not a measure of precaution, but of violence, injustice, and bad faith. He concluded with moving an amendment to the address: long and animated debates ensued: on a division, 313 voted for the original address, and 106 against it, majority 207.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer now brought forward his ways and means.

Mr. Frere our ambassador, could procure, he had reason to think it was near three millions. Such a sum must undoubtedly be meant for unlimited succour, or as an equivalent for the employment for the whole force of Spain.

For the naval service, exclusive of £300,000 for the ordnance sea service, £14,645,680. For the army service of England, £14,778,391. For Ireland, £3,838,506. Ordnance of England, £4,246,994. Of Ireland £600,000. Miscellaneous for England, 800,000. For Ireland, £650,000. Joint charges of both, £44,559,521. To meet these estimates the minister reckoned the land and malt duties at £2,750,000; war taxes £8,300,000; new war tax £1,150,000; property tax, £6,100,000. Surplus of the consolidated fund, £4,000,000, Lottery, £300,000. Surplus of ways and means, £1,192,000. Loan £20,000,000. Total ways and means, £43,992,145. Total supplies, £43,690,419. Leaving a surplus of ways and means, beyond the supplies, of £310,696. New taxes\*

to

\* The new taxes were one penny on each single letter sent by the post, two-pence on double letters, and three pence upon single letters, being an addition of one penny upon letters carried to the vicinity of London by the two-penny post. An addition of five shillings a bushel, to the ten shillings now paid upon salt; on pleasure horses, an addition of one fifth of the present tax;

on

to meet the charges; post-office £250,000; salt, £490,000, ditto on exportation to Europe £80,000, pleasure horses, £140,000. husbandry ditto, £320,000, direct legacies, £200,000, legacies charged on land £100,000, to ditto strangers in blood, £30,000. Total, £1,560,000. The estimated produce would thus be somewhat above £20,000, beyond the sum wanted. After some trifling debates, the resolutions were agreed to

A long discussion took place on reading the bill for the abolition of the Slave Trade. On a division it was lost by a very small majority. Sir William Rawlins, and R. A.

on horses for husbandry, he proposed to raise the present tax of 12s. 6d. to one pound; on legacies a small duty of 1l. per cent. on all direct legacies, upon which the new stamp duty was not now paid. He also proposed to subject legacies charged on land to the same tax; also an increase of the duties to strangers in blood, from 9 to 10 per cent. He then made the following recapitulation. Total amount of the interest on the loan, including three per cents. created for loyalty holders, and charges of management £1,517,192. Taxes to meet the charges £1,560,000.

Cox, Esq. sheriffs\* of Middlesex, were committed to Newgate by the House of Commons for having acted in violation of their duty in refusing to refer to the books of the assessments of the land tax, and in breach of the privileges of that House.

On the 6th of April, Mr. Whitbread submitted for the consideration of the House the subject of the 10th report of the commissioners of naval enquiry. After complimenting the late board of Admiralty, who had instituted the enquiry, he proceeded to the nature of the three† charges he had to bring against  
Lord

\* The sheriffs, wilfully, and knowingly did admit to poll for Sir Francis Burdett, upwards of 300 persons claiming to vote under a fictitious right, by which a colourable majority was obtained in favor of Sir Francis; and they afterwards rejected persons tendering their votes under the same circumstances: indeed it was the obvious tendency of their conduct to admit persons to poll, who had no right to do so, and thereby offered an encouragement to perjury.

† The first charge was, his having applied the public money to other uses, than those of the naval department, in express contempt of an act of parliament, and in gross violation of his duty. Secondly, his conniving at a system of speculation in an individual, for whose conduct, in the

Lord Viscount Melville, and in which were implicated Mr. Trotter, Mr. Wilson, and Mr. Mark Sprot. He contended that the commissioners had discovered deficiencies, for a number of years, in the Treasurers department, to the amount of £674,000. It was, therefore, necessary to call Lord Melville and Mr. Trotter before them, where they would have an opportunity of exculpating themselves. After commenting with great severity on the conduct of his Lordship and Mr. Trotter, he exhorted the concurrence of the Commons in bringing such enormous delinquency to punishment; he concluded with thirteen resolutions, founded on the subject of his speech, but added, that for the present, he should only press the first eleven of them. It would be impossible, consist-

use of the public money, he was deeply responsible, and for this connivance, he denounced him guilty of a high crime and misdemeanour. Thirdly, his having himself been a participator in that system of peculation; but as this rested on suspicion, he should not at present much insist upon; but, if the enquiry should take place, he pledged himself to follow it up, with moderation on his part, but with firmness and steadiness for the country.

ent with our brief history, to detail the many able and animated speeches on this important subject; on a division on Mr. Whitbread's motion, there appeared 216 against it; and 216 in its favor; and the numbers being thus equal, the Speaker gave his casting vote in favor of the motion. Mr. Whitbread then moved an address to His Majesty to remove Lord Melville from his councils and presence for ever: His Lordship in consequence resigned the office of First Lord of the Admiralty, and soon after, his name was erased from the list of the privy council. Mr. Whitbread also implicated Mr. Pitt: he alluded to the *quietus* of £124,000 to Mr. Jellicoe, and to the advance of £40,000 to the house of Boyd and Benfield.\* The money  
Mr.

\* The house of Boyd and Benfield had contracted for the loans of 1795, and of 1796, at the time, when there was such a scarcity of money, that it could not be obtained, even on good security, and they being the principal holders, an instalment of 40,000 becoming due, they, on the same day, applied to government for a loan to that amount, in order to discharge it. Had the sum not been advanced, a new loan must have been contracted for on  
very

Mr. Whitbread affirmed, was advanced by Lord Melville out of the navy fund; and though he admitted that no demands on the the office went unpaid at the time, yet it was unreasonable to suppose, that no inconvenience was felt from this transaction. Mr. Henry Lascelles justified the conduct of the minister, but could not agree with Mr. Whitbread as to the mode of stating the facts; he therefore moved, "that the advance of £40,000 to the house of Boyd and Co. was highly expedient, in the existing circumstances, and attended with the most beneficial effects." After a good deal of debate, the previous question was put and carried on

very disadvantageous terms, which would have been attended with far greater loss to the nation, than that sum, even if it had been lost. But that was not the case; unquestionable security for it had been deposited in the hands of government, and every shilling of it repaid. Mr. Pitt acknowledged to the House, that the transaction was irregular, but perfectly justifiable, at a period when the failure of that house, which did not happen till three years afterwards, might have been very injurious to the public,



Mr. Whitbread's resolution, and the substance of Mr. Lascelles's amendment agreed to: after which Mr. Lascelles obtained leave to bring in a bill of indemnity for the said transaction.

The decided lead which the French took in the affairs of Europe in the course of the present year, the gigantic strides which her emperor had made towards the subjugation of Europe, if not to universal monarchy, leave us the painful task of recording his triumphs and his conquests. The increasing jealousy and hatred of the French government towards our nation, was sufficiently evident in having forced the Court of Spain into hostilities with Britain.

A treaty of concert, between our Sovereign and the Emperor of Germany, was signed at St. Petersburg; Sweden and Austria had already entered into these views, and soon after Austria become a member of the league; and a treaty to that effect was signed by her plenipotentiary at St. Petersburg: a rupture now became inevitable. Bonaparte, who had hitherto devoted his attention  
to

to the invasion of Great Britain, now marched his whole military force, in order to counteract the combination, which was leagued against him. He made rapid strides towards the scene of action, and his army now collected together, was estimated at 140,000 men. After a series of successes on the part of the French, unparalleled in the annals of history in so short a space of time, the combined armies of Austria and Russia were obliged to sue for an armistice.\* An interview took place

\* The errors of the cabinet of Vienna in the first place, and in the second of the Austrian General Mack, merit severe animadversion. It may be asked, and with great propriety, what could here have induced the Austrians to take so advanced a position, while the Russian army, by which they expected to be supported, were still at some distance? Why not attack, with a collected force, the several divisions of the French army, which came into contact, before they could concentrate themselves? or, having neglected that opportunity, why not endeavour to force a retreat? But, instead of making any such efforts, General Mack separated his army into several divisions, which he suffered to be successively overpowered and defeated, and with very little loss to his adversaries. Nay, even after the signal defeat of Austerlitz, the Austrian army

was

place between the emperors of Germany and France in the open air, near the village of Naseldlowitz: the conference lasted a considerable time, and on the conclusion, an Austrian General accompanied by the French General Savary, repaired to the Russian head quarters: the emperor received them with politeness, and, at the same time, made no positive objection to the armistice, though

was far from being annihilated, so that by prudence and vigor, they could still make head against a great proportion of the French army. This observation appears more forcible, when we consider the state and position of the Austrian armies. The Archduke Ferdinand, who commanded a corps of 20,000 Austrians in Bohemia, before intelligence of the armistice reached him, had defeated with considerable loss, a corps of Bavarians, and was rapidly advancing in the rear of the French army, and almost at the same time; Archduke Charles made his appearance from Hungary, within a day's march of Vienna, with an army of 80,000 men, and in excellent order. Under these circumstances, it is presumed, that had the Emperor of Germany not been so precipitate in concluding a treaty with Bonaparte, the fortune of war might have taken a different turn, at least Austria might doubtless have obtained conditions less humiliating.

he

he did not formally concur in it. The terms, however, appeared so humiliating, to the dignity of his throne, and to the interests of his allies, that the Russian emperor refused to become a party; and accordingly ordered his army, although under very distressing circumstances, to commence its retreat from the Austrian territories. Thus terminated the campaign between France and the united powers of Austria and Russia, to the severe discomfiture and loss of military reputation of the latter, but increasing dominion and renown of the former.

Prior to this mortifying and unfortunate discomfiture of the confederate powers on the continent, the health of Mr. Pitt was visibly on the decline, and it could not be expected, that these sudden and fatal miscarriages would give a favourable turn to his disorder. His health, however, became daily worse, and he was, reluctantly obliged to quit all public business, and repair to Bath. The consternation and dismay, which pervaded all ranks of society, on the distressing and  
alarming

alarming state of the kingdom, was incalculable ; but, let us leave this gloomy prospect, and turn with pleasure to more pleasing and animating subjects. The hostilities with Spain, opened a new field of adventure, for our brave and intrepid seamen : a squadron of six sail of the line, and some frigates, which had remained in a state of blockade for more than two years, now found means to elude the British force, and put to sea ; soon after, the Toulon fleet, of eleven ships of the line, and two frigates, long in a state of complete equipment, pushed out to sea without being observed by the gallant Nelson.\*

A serious alarm naturally prevailed on the intelligence of two such formidable fleets being actually at sea—where the blow was to fall, occupied for some time the public mind. Malta, Brazil, the West Indies, or, on a junction of the squadrons, led some to imagine that the fleet was destined to cover

\* Lord Nelson was ever averse to the blockading system ; he always gave the enemy every opportunity of putting to sea.

a descent

a descent on Ireland: but it was the prevalent opinion, that the object of the Toulon armament was destined for Alexandria. Thither Lord Nelson proceeded; but his pursuit was in vain. With the utmost celerity this indefatigable hero traversed the Mediterranean, but with no tidings of the enemy. In fact the French Admiral, after encountering a violent storm, which considerably disabled his fleet, thought it advisable to return to Toulon to refit. During this anxious period, Lord Nelson, with unwearied activity, cruised almost in every probable direction, and finally took his station in the Sicilian seas.

The French Admiral having repaired the damages he had received in his last cruise, once more tried his fortune on the ocean. He sailed for Carthegena, in hopes of being reinforced by some Spanish ships equipping in that port, but, not finding them ready, he steered for Cadiz. Here he was joined by one French, and six Spanish sail of the line: Now reinforced to seventeen sail, and having on board

ten

ten thousand veteran troops, he proceeded to the West Indies. It was some time before Lord Nelson was apprised of his destination. On the 14th of May, his Lordship sailed in pursuit of him, and so rapid was his expedition, that on the 4th of June, he reached Barbadoes. The joy and exultation on his arrival at the West Indies, was incalculable. The inferiority of the two fleets, great as it was, was never once taken into consideration. Nelson and victory were inseparable. At \* Barbadoes he was informed that Admiral Villeneuve had arrived at Martinique on the 14th of May. Suspecting that the reconquest of Trinidad, an ancient Spanish settlement, was the Spanish Admiral's object, he steered to the southward on the 5th of

\* The unaccountable inactivity of this formidable armament amazed Europe. By some, it was attributed to mortality among the troops, as it was asserted, that not less than 3000 fell a sacrifice to the diseases incident to the climate: by others, to a misunderstanding between the French and Spanish commanders, as to the objects of their enterprises.



June

June, and arrived at Trinidad on the 7th.\* Again disappointed, he sailed for Granada, but here he had the mortification to learn, that the French squadron had left Martinique that very morning, and had taken a course to the Northward; judging Antigua must now be their object, he lost no time, but immediately proceeded thither, and was again disappointed; here however he ascertained to a fact, that this formidable fleet of 17 sail of the line, was actually on its return to Europe. Immediately debarking the troops at Antigua, his Lordship once more set sail, in hopes of overtaking the fugitives. The gallant Admiral reached the Straits on the 19th of July, without having seen the enemy, and on the 18th of August, accompanied by the *Superb*, arrived at Portsmouth.

Though Admiral Lord Nelson was not so fortunate as to fall in with Villeneuve's squadron, now increased to twenty sail, he how-

\* Lord Nelson, in case the French had captured Trinidad, prudently embarked 2000 troops under Sir William Myers.



ever was met by Sir Rob. Calder's of fifteen sail of the line, and two frigates, cruising off Cape Finisterre, in hope of intercepting him. An action immediately commenced ; it was supported with determined resolution for four hours ; and finally concluded in favor of the English, and the capture of two sail of the line. In the course of the day, the enemy repeatedly bore up in order of battle, and, as often hauled their wind, upon perceiving no disposition in the British Admiral to avoid him. At night the fleets were about six leagues asunder, and at day break, they were seen steering about south west, and at noon, were out of sight. Thus terminated an affair, eminently conspicuous for British valor and nautical skill, and, may be abstractly considered, a matter of pride and triumph to the country.\*

The

\* But notwithstanding the capture of two sail of the line, and with an inferior force, yet, it must be confessed, that all was not done, on this occasion, that the public thought it had a right to expect. The Admiral's dispatches, as well as the verbal report of the officers who brought them

The combined squadrons, having received a considerable reinforcement at Ferrol, again put to sea with 27 sail of the line, and gained the port of Cadiz. The designs of the enemy were no secret in the British cabinet, and it was manifest that they were preparing for sea. Lord Nelson was offered the command of an armament, sufficient to cope with that of the enemy. The active admiral, without a moment's hesitation, accepted the proposal. He accordingly sailed from Portsmouth on the 14th of September, on board the Victory, and off Plymouth was joined by the Ajax and Thunderer, two ships of the line, and thence immediately proceeded to the coast of Spain. On his lordship's arrival at Cadiz, he received the

home, gave the strongest foundation, for the belief that the action would recommence on the following day ; the result of which, to an enemy already beaten, must be almost total destruction. The disappointment, therefore, was extreme, when intelligence arrived, that the shattered squadron of the enemy had gained Ferrol without molestation.

Y

command

command of the fleet from Admiral Collingwood. \*

His Lordship, ever averse to the blockading system, as leading ultimately to the ruin of the navy, was determined to give the enemy an opportunity to put to sea, and even employed stratagem to induce them to do so. About the middle of October, Lord Nelson having had certain intelligence, that he would be reinforced by seven sail of the line, in a day or two, dispatched Admiral Louis, and six ships of the line, being a fourth of his present force, upon a particular service; and that in so open a manner, that it became immediately known to the French Admiral, and decided his conduct. Villeneuve, deceived by this bold manœuvre, and believing that the English fleet were now reduced to twenty-one sail of the line, while his own consisted of thirty-three, determined to make

\* There were five ships of the line and a frigate, and which were under orders to sail with him, but not finding them in sufficient readiness, he sailed with the *Euryalus* sloop only in company. So anxious was his Lordship to be gone.

one more effort \* to humble the naval force of Great Britain.

Accordingly, on the 19th of October, the combined fleets, of thirty-three sail of the line, sailed from Cadiz. Lord Nelson having received the promised reinforcement, now twenty-seven sail of the line, concluded their destination was the Mediterranean; he therefore immediately sailed for the Straits. On his arrival, he learnt from a frigate stationed there on purpose, that the enemy had not yet passed. On the 21st, a day ever memorable

\* There were, it was said, also personal motives, which led the French Admiral to this resolution. Since his return from the West Indies, the French official paper, the *Moniteur*, had severely reprobated his conduct in that transaction. Bonaparte had also spoken sarcastically of him. He was upbraided by the Spaniards for his not having supported them better in the late action; and finally, it was generally understood, that he was to be superseded, and that Admiral Rosily was actually on his road from Paris, for that purpose. Stung and mortified by these united circumstances, he determined, contrary it is said, to the wish of the Spaniards, to give battle to Lord Nelson.

in the British annals, the combined fleet was descried about six or seven miles eastward of Cape Trafalgar. The intrepid Admiral immediately made the signal for the fleet to bear up in two columns, as they are formed in order of sailing, a mode of attack his Lordship had previously communicated, to avoid the inconvenience and delay in forming a line of battle in the usual manner; Lord Nelson, in the Victory, lead the weather column, and in the Royal Sovereign, Admiral Collingwood, the lee. About noon the dreadful contest commenced; by the leading ships of the columns breaking through the enemy's line: this was first effected by Admiral Collingwood in the Royal Sovereign, and in so gallant a manner, as to excite the admiration of both fleets; the succeeding ships breaking through in all parts, astern of their leaders, and engaging the enemy at the muzzles of their guns. At twenty minutes past twelve, the action became general. It had been the intention of Lord Nelson to have penetrated the line, between  
the

the tenth and eleventh of his adversary's ships in the van; but finding it so close, that there was not room to pass, he ordered the Victory to be run on board the ship opposed to him, and the Temeraire, his second, also ran on board of the next ship in the enemy's line, so that these four ships formed one mass, and were so close, that every gun fired from the Victory, set the Redoubtable, to which she was opposed, on fire; whilst the British sailors were employed at intervals, in the midst of the hottest action, in pouring buckets of water on the flames of the enemy's ship, lest both should be involved in destruction! an instance of cool and deliberate bravery, unparalleled in the annals of ancient and modern history.

The action was equally severe around the Royal Sovereign, and in several other quarters; the enemy's ships being fought with determined gallantry: But British intrepidity was irresistible, and the issue, a brilliant and glorious victory. About three in the afternoon, Admiral Gavina, with ten sail of  
the

the line, bore away to Cadiz; soon after, five more of their headmost ships tacked, and stood to the eastward; they were engaged, and the sternmost was taken; the other four got off, leaving a noble prey of *nineteen ships of the line*, with three flag officers, including the French Admiral Villeneuve. Soon after, all firing ceased, and a complete victory was reported to Lord Nelson, who, having been wounded early in the action, survived to hear the joyful tidings, the fruit of his consummate skill and bravery, and then died, as he had lived, a few minutes before five, with the most heroic resolution.

Thus ended the battle of Trafalgar, the most brilliant and glorious ever recorded in the annals of Great Britain. This splendid victory would have been more complete, and in all probability would have extended either to the capture or destruction of every hostile vessel, had not the wind been so dull, as to prevent the rear of the British fleet coming up in time! Such a victory could not be gained without a serious loss in men, and officers; yet upon the whole not so great, as might have

have been expected in so severe an action.\*  
Captains Cook of the *Bellerophon*, and Duff  
of the *Mars*, and the irreparable loss of the

\* Where all are equally brave, it is no easy matter to point out individual merit. A circumstance, however, occurred during the action, which so strongly marks the invincible spirit of British seamen, when engaging the enemies of their country, that it would be unpardonable not to notice it. The *Temerare*, Captain Harvey, was boarded by a French ship on one side, and by a Spaniard on the other; the contest was obstinate, but in the end the hostile ensigns were torn from the poop, and the British hoisted in their places, and finally both the enemy's ships captured. Captain Freemantle in the *Neptune*, by the skilful manner he manœuvred his vessel, compelled two of the hostile ships to surrender, and with very little loss on his side.

Indeed the coolness, intrepidity and admirable discipline, of the British seamen exceed all praise: One proof, among many others which could be adduced, merits our particular attention. When five of the captured ships were engaged so closely, as that the muzzles of the lower deck guns of the antagonists touched each other, the French lowered their ports, and deserted their guns upon the deck, whilst on the contrary the English sailors were deliberately loading and firing their guns with two and often with three round shot, which soon reduced the hostile ship to a wreck.

immortal



immortal Nelson, will be long and seriously lamented. His Lordship had been engaged with the *Redoubtable*, and subsequently with his old antagonist, the *Santissima Trinadada* of 140 guns, for more than an hour, and, latterly, having the *Bucentaure* of 80 guns, carrying the flag of the French admiral, on his quarter; when, at about fifteen minutes after one, standing on the quarter deck, he received a wound from a musket ball discharged by a marksman on the poop of the *Bucentaure*, which entered his left breast, and which he immediately declared to be mortal ! To the last moment of his existence, his solicitude for the event of the action never ceased; every consideration, save the anxious wish for the glory of his country, was entirely dormant. Captain Hardy, who fought his ship, seeing the enemy striking their colors on every side, or flying the scene of action, carried the glad tidings to the dying hero, who, after thanking the Almighty most fervently that he had survived so glorious an event, and that he had been enabled once more to do his duty to his country, expired without a groan.

To.

To do justice to the transcendent merits of this honorable martyr of Trafalgar, requires the pencil of a more able and finished master, than the author of these pages claims any merit to be considered. Elogy has no metaphor that can represent his splendid career; and panegyric itself must borrow its language from the simple page of historic record, to paint the enterprizing activity of his animated spirit. Victory or Westminster Abbey! *a glorious life, or an honorable tomb*, seem to have been regarded almost as equal blessings. To him, wounds, hardships, sufferings and mutilations, presented no obstruction in the career of his duty. Happily for his memory, his exploits form his best elogium, and so long as there shall exist a record of the events of British history during the period of his life, so long will he be remembered as one of the greatest patriots, heroes, and men, England ever produced.

FINIS.

